Hafa Adai!

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'CHC disconnection alarming, puts patients at serious risk'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Manglona urges Torres to address CHCC, CUC fiasco

Putting the hospital on emergency generator power for six hours every day is dangerous as hospital patients are potentially put at risk, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who urged Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday to intervene.

This comes soon after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disconnected the power supply Tuesday to the Commonwealth Health Center for non-payment of utility bills. The power outage is being implemented every day for six hours, starting from 12pm to 6pm, until the CUC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs the hospital, agree on a payment plan for CHCC.

Manglona

In a letter to Torres, Manglona said that CHC's emergency generator operation's capability and emergency fuel supply are being significantly compromised and that power quality disturbances such as power surges, spikes, sags, or blackouts can cripple medical equipment and place the care of patients at serious risk.

"It is very alarming that during this unprecedented crisis,

See CHC on Page 4

Hopwood sees fewer students

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following a Board of Education-mandated rezoning that was designed to decongest public school populations, Hopwood Middle School saw a large decrease in its number of students this school year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said there are now 700 students at the middle school compared to the

See HOPWOOD on Page 4

Three NMI students named Merit Scholar semifinalists

Three CNMI students were named yesterday as semifinalists of the 66th National Merit Scholarship Program, joining about 16,000 other semifinalists nationwide.

The CNMI's semifinalists are Gengyan Liu of Marianas High School, Victoria Nicole M. Santos of Mount Carmel School, and Frederic M. Guintu of Saipan International School.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. officials announced the names of about 16,000 semifinalists in a release yesterday, saying these high school seniors now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $30 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a

See STUDENTS on Page 4

CHC's solar power project completed

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly a year of construction, the first phase of the Commonwealth Health Center's solar power project has been completed, resulting in a covered parking lot at the

See SOLAR on Page 4

For those who haven't been to the Commonwealth Health Center in Lower Navy Hill lately, the back portion of the hospital, which used to be an extensive parking lot, now sports new awnings that are also equipped with solar panels. The solar panel project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, is estimated to save the hospital as much as $700,000 in utility costs a year. The project started in October 2019.

NEIL FAMA

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 9, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,671	42	1,713
Recovered	744	207	951
Active	701	42	746
Deaths	19	1	20
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			41,568

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	59	1	60
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			13,540*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Hyatt Regency Saipan offers 25% discount when dining in at any of its popular restaurants.
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NATION
More than a dozen California firefighters trying to protect a fire station are overrun by flames.
PAGE 12

ENVIRONMENT
Chances are you've seen them these past few weeks—they're called Gulf Fritillary butterflies.
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Local

AS SEPT. 30 DEADLINE NEARS TO PASS 2021 BUDGET

Blanco seeks talks with Senate to move budget swiftly

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) has asked House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) to request for a meeting with the Senate leadership to discuss how to move forward with the fiscal year 2021 budget in a swift manner.

Blanco

Attao

The Legislature has until Sept. 30 to pass the budget to avoid a government shutdown.

During Tuesday's House session, Blanco said he does not have any official notice or updates from the Senate as their days are numbered to pass the budget. Blanco asked Attao if they can sit with Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Saipan) so they can find out where the Senate is with the budget and how the members of House Ways and Means can help move the process along.

Attao said he will be following up again with Hocog and their colleagues in the Senate to sit with them so they can address the budget bill and get it out of the Senate, and forward it to the desk of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his review and action.

The House passed House Bill 21-124, or the Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2021, last Aug. 13. The total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2021 is $144.41 million, with adjustments bringing it down to $87.21 million. The Executive Branch was appropriated $23.38 million, while the Judiciary and the Legislature were appropriated $4.36 million and $4.87 million, respectively. Rota was appropriated $4.84 million; Tinian and Aguiguan, $4.28 million; and Saipan and Northern Islands mayors and Saipan Municipal Council, $1.77 million. Boards and commissions were appropriated $837,317; independent programs, $10.05 million; and other programs, $28 million.

COMBAT MEDICS

After a day of training and N95 mask fitting, six combat medics from the Guam National Guard's Joint Task Force 671, Task Force Medical, are on the floor of the Guam Memorial Hospital's COVID-19 Care Unit in Tamuning on Sep. 9. The medics are slated to perform tasks such as vital sign monitoring and recording, phlebotomy and glucose screening, pneumatic compression device management, and other tasks that will better enable GMH staff to focus on critical care. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

$20K bail for men who broke into a government office in As Perdido

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a cash bail of $20,000 on the two men who were arrested for allegedly breaking into a government office in As Perdido and stealing government-owned equipment.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim Tenorio imposed last Tuesday a $20,000 cash bail on Maynard Dela Cruz and Rollin Ulechong Skang for multiple charges related to the burglary.

Dela Cruz, 29, and Skang, (previously spelled Skaggs), 20, were both charged with conspiracy, burglary, and theft and were remanded to the Department of Corrections after their bail hearing. Both were ordered to return to court on Sept. 14 at 1:30pm.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government while assistant public defender Karie Comstock appeared for Dela Cruz. The court has yet to appoint a defense lawyer for Skang.

According to court documents, The Theft Apprehension Select Coalition Task Force or TASC under the Department of Public Safety arrested Dela Cruz and Ulechong Skang on the charge of burglarizing the Division of Parks and Recreation maintenance office in As Perdido.

TASC identified Dela Cruz and Skang as the alleged perpetrators after an informant provided information regarding two individuals who were selling equipment that had been reported stolen.

DPS received a call on Aug. 17, 2020, regarding a burglary and theft of a government office where five bush-cutters, a battery pack, a blower, and a container of gas were stolen.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who is an employee of Parks and Recreation. The employee led police to the storage room where officers noticed signs of forced entry.

Dela Cruz and Skang were arrested on Sept. 4 following a press release from DPS stating that they were both "persons of interest" in the case and were wanted by the police for questioning.

Our Income Guidelines Have Changed

WIC CNMI

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) CNMI WIC Program (WIC) has new income eligibility guidelines. WIC has continued its efforts to ensure food access, breastfeeding support and reassurance for young families during the pandemic. WIC is available to the CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective June 22, 2020

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$23,606	$1,968	$984	$908	$454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each Add'l Member Add	+$8,288	+$691	+$346	+$319	+$160

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions

An individual or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid automatically meet the income requirement.

Become a WIC Client

Call us at (670) 664-4084 to see if you qualify. In this new normal we continue to do remote services, so it is important to have a working number we can reach you at.

Essential Documents for everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC Program

- Identification for adults (Driver's License, Photo ID)
- Child's Identification (Shot Record, Birth Certificate, Crib Card)
- Proof of Income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of Address (Mail from CUC or NAP card)

For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, please call us at (670) 664-4084.

Stay informed and up to date with what is going on at WIC by visiting CNMI WIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmichcc, www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram @cnmi.wic.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider. The program is funded by the United Stated Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, federal award #7NM700NM5).

CEC orders 21,584 ballots; 18,506 registered voters so far

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has ordered from a Nebraska company the printing of 21,584 ballots for this Nov. 3 general elections.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said they expect the ballots to arrive on Saipan by Sept. 14.

Igitol told members of the House of Representatives during Tuesday's House session that they will try to send the absentee ballots by mid- to end of September.

Igitol also disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that, as of Tuesday, there were 18,506 registered voters in the CNMI.

Villagomez

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said they are now just waiting for the different political parties to give them the names of their poll watchers so they could start their training early. She said the parties are sometimes late in turning in of the names of their designated poll watchers, resulting in their training being held close to election day.

Villagomez said they have a deadline for political parties to submit the names of their poll watchers but the political parties would usually ask for an extension until the CEC is nearly out of time.

House floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) urged the CEC to emphasize the need to train CEC staff and poll watchers so voters are assured of a smooth process in this election.

Igitol

"We need to provide training so we don't rush things on election day. It's a very serious matter," Sablan said.

The House then passed Tuesday a consultative version of the Senate bill that suspends certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general election to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The House also unanimously passed Senate Bill 21-67, SDI, that amends the election law to allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means due to COVID-19 situation. Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) introduced the two bills.

CNMI Census responses to be sent to DC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Census Office has completed data collection and field follow up activities as of the end of August 2020, according to the Department of Commerce yesterday.

Norita

Rabauliman

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiries, Commerce Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew said Census responses are now being packed and will be sent to the U.S. Census Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C. before the end of September. Andrew said the CNMI Census Office will be officially closed by the end of November.

He said Census data processing, tabulation, and report publication will be done by the U.S. Census Bureau at its headquarters.

He said the 2020 Census of the CNMI contract only allows the CNMI government to collect the data. "All the data collected is sent to the U.S. Census Bureau headquarters for processing and reporting," Andrew said.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said the successful completion of the 2020 Census, especially during this time of the global COVID-19 pandemic, would not have been possible without the cooperation and participation of the CNMI community.

"On behalf of our governor and his leadership team and our Census 2020 team led by our Census manager, Mr. Clyde Norita, I thank each and every member of our local communities on Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands for trusting us with your personal information," Rabauliman said.

He assured people of the confidentiality of their personal data, saying they were collected under strict confidentiality procedures implemented by the CNMI Census Office.

He said the data that the people provided gave them the much needed information for policymaking and program planning decisions that government leaders need until another Census is conducted.

Power interruption on Friday, Sept. 11

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, for the area of Capital Hill.

As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace a leaning and rotted power pole and a leaking 3-phase transformer in Capital Hill behind the Legislature building. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

See additional information below:

■ Fridays Sept. 11, 2020 — 9am to 9:30am

• Outage type: Sectionalized momentary outage on the Feeder 4 Circuit

• Project location: Capital Hill (behind the Legislature Building)

• Power service area(s) affected: Capital Hill (Maug Dr. Rota P1., Governor's Office, Legislature Building and DFEMS Building)

• Water well(s) affected: None

• Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

■ Friday, Sept. 11, 2020 — 9am to 1pm

• Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Feeder 4 Circuit

• Project location: Capital Hill (behind the Legislature Building)

• Power service area(s) affected: Capital Hill (Legislature Building and DFEMS Building)

• Water well(s) affected: None

• Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

RELIEF GOODS DISTRIBUTION

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation and the Grace Christian Assembly team up to distribute relief goods last Sept. 6, at the field next to the Koblerville basketball court. About 350 bags were distributed that day. If you would like to help, contact Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founder Rose Smith at 670-483-0162 or 235-2340. You can also contact Grace Christian Assembly board member Jess Pantaleo at 287-7742.

NEIL FAMA

Engineering firm wants settlement with IPI enforced

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An engineering company has asked the Superior Court again to enforce the settlement agreement they had with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, accusing the casino company of not being compliant.

Bellas

Geo Testing Inc., a geotechnical engineering company, through lawyer Timothy H. Bellas, has asked the Superior Court to calendar anew its motion to enforce its settlement with IPI.

Bellas said the plaintiff's motion was taken off calendar based on a stipulated request to vacate the hearing filed on March 14, 2020.

Part of the consideration for the stipulation by the parties was that if IPI fails to make any future monthly installment payment, the plaintiff would simply file a request to re-calendar the matter for a hearing.

Bellas added that the stipulation further provides that the plaintiff would update the amounts due to it based on the additional accumulated interest and fees from the date of the missed payment.

Now, Geo Tech is asking the court to calendar anew its motion to enforce settlement because other than the one payment that IPI made to induce the plaintiff to take the motion off calendar, IPI has allegedly made no further monthly payments on the amount due under the settlement.

Bellas said this is their second attempt to enforce the settlement agreement between Geo Testing and IPI that was executed on June 28, 2019.

Bellas said the settlement agreement was intended as a full settlement of the lawsuit.

Originally, Geo Testing sued IPI for non-payment of services, and demanded $454,934.33 in damages and interest. Bellas said the parties agreed to a settlement with a payment of a lesser amount than originally claimed.

IPI made one partial payment of $50,000 in March and the next payment was due on the last day of April 2020.

He said the unpaid balance under the settlement agreement was $129,034.73.

Bellas explained that the unpaid balance began to accrue interest of 9%, which is a daily amount of $31.81, beginning on May 5, 2020.

He said the amount due to Geo Testing is now $130,911.52 plus accruing interest of $31.81 per day until the amount outstanding is paid in full.

ERRATUM

The story titled "House OKs bills that allow online CEC meeting, suspend some election laws" that was published in yesterday's edition, incorrectly stated that Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) was absent during the House of Representatives session. The story has been re-edited to reflect the original story, which stated that Maratita was not present during the voting. Our apologies for the error.

CHC

From Page 1

the first victim from our government financial belt-tightening is our hospital," he said.

Manglona asked Torres to immediately address this financial tussle between CHCC and CUC. "We cannot leave it up to the two corporations to settle their long-running dispute," said the senator, adding that for many years the fiscal budget allotted to CHCC are not realistic figures on the true cost of hospital operations that must be factored into the budget formula.

Manglona said there is no doubt that the CNMI's practice of omitting or knowingly under-budgeting known, unavoidable costs from the hospital budget—including interisland medical referral services, Medicaid-matching requirements, CHCC indigent care costs, and government utilities—have been the main reason for CHCC's past due utility billing.

Manglona noted that CUC did the disconnection Tuesday—two days after Torres assured the public that there will be no reduction in power supply to CHCC. While he understands that CUC does not have the luxury or financial ability to continue supplying more than $400,000 per month worth of electricity to CHCC, cutting power supply to CHCC in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic "is frightening," he said.

Manglona pointed out that Commonwealth leaders, including Finance Secretary David Atalig, were aware of CHCC's non-payment issue for years now. Manglona said he believes the total past due amount owed by CHCC is more than $30 million.

What is even more disturbing and frightening is CUC's present electricity generation infrastructure situation, the senator said. He said CUC's maximum power production is around 50 megawatts, without power engine No. 5, which is still down.

Manglona said Aggreko's 12-megawatts temporary electric power supply contract is expiring at the end of this month, and that, without Aggreko's engines, there will be no island power reserve.

He said the continued delay of CUC's aging generators' long overdue maintenance does not help. "These will eventually translate to rolling blackouts in the near future as CUC's production capability will be well below consumer demand," the senator said.

Manglona said he is confident that, by working together with CUC and CHCC, and making this a top priority, the government can put the hospital and health care services as well as the utility corporation back on a sustainable fiscal course.

"We know that if our people believe and trust that we are putting their best interests in mind, they will be behind us and be more willing to accept the tough austerity measures we impose because we are seriously and reasonably confronting the magnitude of our fiscal dilemma," he said.

SOLAR

From Page 1

back of the building that generates power for two of the hospital's medical departments.

Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, says that the solar panels—which are affixed to the roofs of the awnings that now cover parts of the CHC rear parking lot—are generating power for the "most heavily loaded department," which is the hospital's emergency room and radiology department.

He said they have been doing a "measurable load calculation" on the hospital's power savings and they concluded that the hospital will be able to save 18% to 20% of CHC's regular power load.

The project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, first broke ground on Aug. 13, 2018, but started official construction only in October 2019. The 2018 groundbreaking was only for the first phase of the project that would cover the entire parking lot of the hospital.

"The first phase will cover section D of the parking lot. We're applying for other grants so we could continue all the way to the north side," said Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña in an earlier interview.

With the solar power panels now fully activated, the new solar panels are projected to lessen the corporation's recurring monthly bill with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Villagomez said.

CHCC estimates to save as much as $700,000 a year on its utility bills once the project is completed.

The project was made possible after CHCC received a $560,000 grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Energizing Insular Communities program. According to previous articles, the first phase of CHCC's solar power project was partially funded by the $560,000 grant provided by the Department of the Interior but CHCC had to cover the remaining $342,301.

Muña earlier said that a project like this should have happened long ago, especially for a 30-year-old healthcare facility that needs more renovations. Additionally, with CHCC saving an estimate of $700,000 yearly, it would give them a chance to pay for other medical services as well.

HOPWOOD

From Page 1

900 students that Hopwood used to have, and parents are happy about the development.

He added that parents, who were instructed to go to the old Hopwood site in Afetnas to register their children, got the chance to see how far the school's renovations have come, and that they reportedly liked what they saw because "the smaller the population of the school, the better." Hopwood was one of the schools that sustained a lot of damage during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

Ada said that the school's smaller population means fewer students in a classroom, which will help teachers pay more attention to students.

Additionally, Ada said that teachers are excited about this school year, but many want to go back to face-to-face instruction. He said not everyone is moving along "at the same rate" and that there are teachers who have accepted and are making the best of it, but some are still "stuck" on the old ways and still want to go back.

"Until they let that go and say, 'You know what, I'm going to face this challenge, I'm going to make the best of it.' [When] they do that, then they'll be happier," said Ada.

The other areas for rezoning are As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya-Mobil upwards, As Lito, Finasisu, and Joeten-Dandan. The middle school students in these areas will now have to attend classes at the Dandan Middle School instead of Hopwood.

Hopwood underwent reconstruction after the demolition of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. After the storm, the campus was deemed "inappropriate" because it lacked the facilities that would create a safe environment for students to continue their studies.

At the time, the school's Parent-Teacher Student Association pointed out that the temporary campus lacked what the old campus had, which was a stage, sports and recreational areas, restrooms, etc.

STUDENTS

From Page 1

Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. Over 90% of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

The program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions.

Steps in the 2021 competition

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay.

From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2021. Every finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit $2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title. ***(PR)***

Man accidentally shoots self and is later arrested

A man who was reportedly wounded in a drive-by shooting in San Jose, Saipan, but was then found out to have shot himself accidentally was later arrested and charged with illegal discharge of a firearm.

According to the news release from the CNMI Department of Public Safety, DPS received a 911 call on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, at about 10:10pm, reporting a gunfire incident in the village of San Jose on Saipan. Police units were rushed to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who informed them that their friend was shot in the leg from a passing vehicle. Officers got the description of the vehicle and immediately notified all units to be on the look-out. Officers reported that the victim was screaming in pain and was lying face up and bleeding from his left thigh. Medics quickly brought Don Jr. Pangelinan Sanchez to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

Sanchez

After further investigation, officers learned from witnesses at the scene that the incident was self-inflicted due to an accidental discharge of a handgun. The pistol was later recovered and procured as evidence.

On Sept. 4, 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued an arrest warrant for Sanchez for the charges of unlawful discharge of a firearm, storage of a firearm, person permitted to process ammunition, and firearm owner's identification card requirement with bail set a $30,000.

On Sept. 7, 2020, officers, along with the Rapid Response Team, executed the arrest warrant for Sanchez in San Antonio, Saipan. Sanchez was found in his vehicle before his arrest and was brought to the Criminal Investigations Bureau for further questioning before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. ***(PR)***

IN CASE OF EX-ARMY RESERVE MEMBER REQUESTING EARLY RELEASE

Defense argues prosecution's opposition was misguided

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former U.S Army Reserve Jordan Jucutan's defense is arguing that the opposition to his early release is misguided and unwarranted and that he is not safe in prison due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected many prisons in the United States.

Jucutan's lawyers, Danielle Pfifferling and Barbara Butterworth, argue that Jucutan will be much safer at home where he will be able to self-isolate.

Jucutan is currently in prison at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon.

The defense cited a declaration from Warden Josias Salazar that demonstrated that some inmates at SCP Sheridan, a minimum-security Satellite Camp also operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Sheridan, have been released due to COVID-19, because Salazar believes there is a risk to inmates from COVID-19.

Jucutan's attorneys also cited the declaration of James Keller, acting unit manager at FDC Sheridan, stating that 21 inmates from SCP Sheridan were allowed compassionate releases due to COVID-19 and that the prison has found that there is a risk of inmates in SCP Sheridan contracting COVID-19.

Pfifferling and Butterworth said the Federal Bureau of Prisons cannot prevent or even limit the spread of COVID-19 at FCI Sheridan, FDC Sheridan, and SCP Sheridan.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, assistant U.S attorney Garth Backe opposed Jucutan's request for early release because he said Jucutan is at a minimum-security satellite camp and not at the main prison of the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon.

Secondly, Backe said the U.S. government disputes the defendant's characterization of the Bureau of Prisons' ability to handle the present situation at FCI Sheridan.

Lastly, Backe said the U.S. government opposed the motion because Jucutan is proposing to move from a location where there have been zero positive cases, SCP Sheridan, to a place where there have been close to 1,000, in Thurston County, Washington.

Jucutan, who is serving a 28-month prison sentence for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft, asked for his early release because his alleged underlying medical conditions, obesity and asthma, puts him at a high risk of contracting COVID-19.

Jucutan started serving his sentence on July 17, 2019, and with four months reduction for good time, he will be released on July 11, 2021.

Jucutan was convicted on the charge of engaging in a scheme to defraud the U.S. government and obtaining money falsely by claiming he referred nominees or potential soldiers to enlist in the Army Reserve through the AR-RAP program and received $2,000 for every nominee that enlisted and went through the training.

Jucutan said he recruited a total of 38 nominees. He signed a sworn affidavit admitting he "stole" the personal information of four nominees, entered their information into the Docupak webpage and received $9,000 for the nominations. Dokupak runs the AR-RAP program.

On May 26, 2016, a federal jury found Jucutan guilty of four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft.

Deadline to nominate for the Bridge of Light award is this Friday, Sept. 11

Those interested in honoring an extraordinary individual by nominating them for the Bridge of Light Award can still submit nominations until Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

The Bridge of Light Award is given annually by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to recognize a community hero who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

Those eligible for the Bridge of Light Award include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI. The nominee must have been employed/volunteered for a minimum of one year and/or have demonstrated one or more extraordinary accomplishments to help sustain the movement. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2020WebLink. The deadline to submit a completed nomination form is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

It is strongly encouraged that those nominating be as detailed and thorough as possible on the form to show why their nominee is deserving of the award. Those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based only on the information provided.

The recipient of the 2020 Bridge of Light Award will also be presented with the opportunity to attend a retreat or training courtesy of NMCADSV and a Self-Care Gift Package sponsored by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and SALT & Barber Art Studio.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc. executive director Diana Camacho, the Attorney General Office's victim advocate John Aguon, and most recently, DYS director Vivian T. Sablan.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

RENOVATION KRIZEL TUAZON
The American Memorial Park's outdoor theater in Garapan is undergoing renovation and is being repainted to fix the damage done by past typhoons.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-OGM-113
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK 4WD/FOUR-FULL-DOORS THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARING HOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
   i. Regular Board Meeting – August 5, 2020
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance Committee
      a. Fund Status Report
4) **Old Business**
   a. Off-shore Contracts
5) **New Business**
   a. FY2021 Revised Budget
   b. FY2019 Audit Report
   c. Amendments to Marianas Visitors Authority By-Laws to include emergency clause and changes to membership
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

HUD urges use of grant funds to prevent evictions

» Rental assistance to prevent evictions is allowable use of $7B HUD CARES Act funds

NEW GARBAGE CANS
Members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club and the Teen Unity Leos Club donate 10 empty drum cans to the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School last Wednesday to be used as garbage bins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is reminding state and local governments that they may use the Emergency Solutions Grants or Community Development Block Grant money they got to provide rental assistance to people so they are not evicted from their homes.

HUD is reminding all grantees—states, cities, communities, and nonprofits—who received ESG or CDBG funds that they may use these funds to provide rental assistance or other aid to individuals experiencing financial hardship because of the pandemic and are at risk of being evicted, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

Carson

HUD said in a statement that this is consistent with President Donald Trump's Executive Order "Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners," which signifies the administration's commitment to minimize displacement and evictions resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic national emergency.

"From Day 1 of this pandemic, the Administration has done everything in our power to ensure that the American people have a roof over their heads during these trying times," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "Thanks to President Trump's leadership we have secured the necessary resources and mechanisms to efficiently and effectively combat this virus."

HUD continues to provide technical assistance to grant recipients to prevent evictions and keep people in their homes throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department provided virtual office hours for grantees to ensure relief funds are being used quickly and efficiently. HUD has issued a toolkit for landlords and Public Housing Authorities so they can work with their tenants during this difficult financial time. Additionally, HUD has extended its Single-Family eviction and foreclosure moratorium for FHA insured Single-Family homes three times, has promoted the Department's Housing Counselor services, and issued guidance for lenders.

Homelessness service providers and Public Housing Authorities across the nation have jumped into action to assist those they serve during this unprecedented time. Read more about their stories featured in HUD's *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* campaign, here. For more information on HUD›s response to the novel coronavirus pandemic and the actions the Department has taken, please visit HUD.gov/coronavirus. ***(PR)***

$34M Compact funding is OK'd to fund govt operations in the Marshall Islands

The Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands convened for its annual meeting on Aug. 20, 2020, this time by video teleconference, and concurred to allocations totaling $34,159,131 in Compact of Free Association financial assistance for fiscal year 2021.

This assistance will be used primarily for the health and education sectors as well as infrastructure projects and maintenance related activities in the Marshall Islands.

As required under U.S. Public Law 108-188, the JEMFAC meets annually to review Compact budgetary spending proposed by the RMI government and concurs to funding allocations.

"Although the JEMFAC was not able to meet in person due to travel restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, we did meet by video teleconference and come to agreement for [fiscal year] 2021 allocations to the RMI government," said JEMFAC chair and Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula. "Given the ongoing impacts of the global pandemic, we want to ensure that Compact assistance continues to provide fiscal stability and support to the RMI government."

"I congratulate the teams from both governments that contributed to making this year's annual JEMFAC meeting a success, especially in light of the continuing constraints our governments have faced with the ongoing pandemic," said RMI Ambassador to the United States Gerald M. Zackios. "We thank the U.S. government for providing this essential financial assistance to support our core sectors of health and education, and I echo [Foreign] Minister [Casten] Nemra in stating that the RMI expresses our sincere gratitude to the U.S. government for its gracious support under the CARES Act to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the RMI."

The JEMFAC allocated $34,159,131 in fiscal year 2021 Compact of Free Association sector grant assistance to the following sectors: $10,450,788 for education' $7,917,891 for infrastructure; $6,967,192 for health; $2,725,899 for Ebeye special needs - education; $2,269,742 for Ebeye special needs – health; $929,849 Ebeye special needs – capital; $2,393,810 for Kwajalein Impact Fund; $251,980 for Kwajalein Environmental Fund; and $251,980 for Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund. These total $34,159,131.

The JEMFAC further resolved that the use of infrastructure funds would be authorized for the following capital improvement projects: Ebeye Elementary School (phase 3), Laura High School (4 classrooms), Rita Health Clinic, and Ebeye Hospital (plumbing/toilet repair). Use of the Kwajalein Impact Fund was authorized for the Mid-Corridor housing project (phase 2).

In his opening remarks, Chairman Pula commended the RMI government for keeping the coronavirus out of the Marshall Islands, while also expressing condolences to families whose loved ones have been impacted by COVID-19. He recognized the plight of Marshallese and other Pacific Islanders in the United States who are suffering disproportionately by population size, among the highest COVID-19 mortality rates in the United States.

The JEMFAC comprises five members: Pula (U.S. Department of the Interior); Nemra (RMI Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade); Alfred Alfred Jr. (RMI Minister of Finance); William Gallo (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and Suzanne Lawrence (U.S. State Department).

Certain provisions of the Compact of Free Association agreement between the RMI and the United States are set to expire in 2023. Bilateral discussions are underway related to the expiring provisions.

For more information regarding the JEMFAC or the Compacts of Free Association, visit the OIA website at https://www.doi.gov/oia/compacts-of-free-association. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS (W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030, *Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells"*,** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Island Snapshots

SEABEES ON TINIAN

Builder 2nd Class Fernando Gonzalez, from West Covina, Calif., assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, levels and plumbs a gable-end on a Southwest Asia hut that will be used for berthing on Camp Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 3RD CLASS MARCUS HENLEY

Seabees assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian place concrete for a storage tank pad next to the galley on Camp Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 3RD CLASS MARCUS HENLEY

Builder 2nd Class Andrew Lopez, from Knightdale, N.C., assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, nails in blocks of wood used to secure sheathing on the interior of the galley on Camp Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 3RD CLASS MARCUS HENLEY

FREE LAPTOPS

John Darag, Marianas High School English and Language Arts teacher, shows the laptops that will be distributed among students who would need the devices for their participation in online classes for this school year, which started last Tuesday

JUSTINE NAUTA

RELIEF GOODS DISTRIBUTION

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, in collaboration with the Grace Christian Assembly, hand out canned food and other relief goods on Saturday morning, Sept. 6, at the field next to the Koblerville basketball court. About 350 bags were distributed that day. Plans to help continue distributing to other villages are in the works. This outreach was sponsored by Mobil, Marpac and Reps. Ed Propst and L.J. Castro. If you would like to help, contact Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founder Rose Smith at 670-483-0162 or 235-2340. You can also contact Grace Christian Church board member Jess Pantaleo at 287-7742.

NEIL FAMA

HOUSE SESSION

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol, CEC executive director Julita Villagomez, CEC counsel assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr., and Office of the Public Auditor counsel Ashley Kost answer questions and concerns about this Nov. 3 general election raised by some members of the House of Representatives during Tuesday's session in the House of Representatives' chamber at the Legislature on Capital Hill.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

RESTORATION PROJECT

Docomo Pacific Saipan continues with its Docomo Pacific Saipan Restoration Project, which aims to repair portions of the sidewalk that have been damaged by previous road projects. Here, Jeida Guam Construction workers, which Docomo has hired from Guam to handle this project, use a concrete saw to cut out the damaged portions of a Chalan Piao sidewalk. The restoration project officially started last Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Ana Market in Koblerville. Plans to work on other locations are in the works.

NEIL FAMA

SOLAR ENERGY

For those who haven't been to the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan lately, the back portion of the hospital now has new awnings that are also equipped with solar panels. The solar panel project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, is estimated to save the hospital as much as $700,000 in utility costs a year. The construction of the project started in October 2019.

NEIL FAMA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Retargeting testing: Political or practical?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has quietly revised testing guidelines for COVID-19.

Regarding people who have come into contact with an infected person, the recommendations now read: "You do not necessarily need a test unless you are a vulnerable individual or your health care provider or state or local public health officials recommend you take one."

The move has kicked off a political firestorm.

Democratic leaders allege that the White House is deliberately steering people away from taking tests, pointing to President Donald Trump's public comments about the link between the country's high case count and high rates of testing. Numerous public health officials have denounced or questioned the change, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert.

Meanwhile, officials at the CDC and Health and Human Services say the move is intended to allow testing to target the most vulnerable populations, where lagging testing has hindered effective containment efforts.

The CDC has reversed and updated policy throughout the pandemic, but there's a feeling of foul play this time given the president's recent fulminations.

Still, let's take a step back.

First, the new guidance does not discourage or prevent those exposed to the coronavirus from seeking a test. It merely downplays the urgency of doing so in favor of focusing testing on more at-risk individuals.

Second, the CDC released a study in July suggesting that the actual number of coronavirus cases could be anywhere from six to 24 times higher than current testing reveals.

The U.S. is laughably shorthanded in terms of testing capacity. Targeting its limited resources toward more vulnerable populations, such as nursing homes and health care workers and school teachers, is a reasonable proposal.

If testing was coming anywhere close to keeping up with current numbers the shift would indeed seem nefarious. But it's not. The U.S. has been testing between 600,000 and 800,000 people per day in recent weeks, with a steadily falling positivity rate, currently down to about 6%. Some experts suggest that the country would need to test 4 million people per day to actually keep up with the rate of transmission.

Of course the country should be worried about asymptomatic individuals spreading the virus unknowingly. Some officials argue that asymptomatic people who test negative could still be positive and transmit the virus depending on how soon after exposure they are tested.

The CDC and HHS are continuing to emphasize masking and social distancing and hand-washing—and self-quarantining in the case of exposure.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York sums up the more conspiratorial take: "The only plausible rationale is that they want fewer people taking tests, because as the presi-

See RETARGETING on Next Page

Ma'am... Why are you not wearing a mask??
I've been set up again! You must be a Trump supporter?
Pelosi
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In American politics today, the center is a lonely place to be

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.

Who is a moderate now? Who's a centrist?

Until recently, the answer to such questions was primarily ideological. Centrists were middle-of-the-roaders who rejected the purity of the ideological left and right. I will confess: I used to have considerable scorn for such people. They often acted as if being in the middle was a sign of intellectual superiority.

After all, on some issues the pure ideological position is often smarter than the split-the-difference compromise. If one side wants to build a bridge over a canyon and the other side doesn't, the smartest course isn't to build half a bridge that stops in thin air.

In recent years, though, the definition of centrism has been changing before our eyes as the culture has become more partisan. For instance, I haven't changed my conservative views on most issues, but because I am a staunch critic of President Donald Trump, many liberals now treat me as if I am a moderate or centrist. That makes sense if you think of Trump as a giant magnet next to our political compass. He serves as the true north for much of the right, which means much of the left reflexively marches south. That puts me somewhere like halfway between the two at east or west.

But I've come to believe there's something else going on. Karen Stenner, an economist who studies authoritarianism, has identified what she calls an "authoritarian predisposition." She is quick to note that authoritarianism isn't synonymous with conservatism or any other ideological framework. Authoritarianism, she writes, "is a functional disposition concerned with maximizing 'oneness' and 'sameness' especially in conditions where the things that make us one and the same—common authority, and shared values—appear to be under threat."

Historically, American conservatism has balanced conflicting impulses. It has been antagonistic to sudden, drastic, social change while at the same time it fully embraced—at least in theory—the free market. The problem is that economic liberty fuels change more than almost anything else. What Joseph Schumpeter called "creative destruction" constantly replaces old means of production with new ones. Moreover, most conservatives were defenders of existing traditional institutions and norms. This deference to courts, elections and the rule of law put structural limits on the reach of culturally conservative programs.

A similar uneasy fusion endured on the left. In economics, capitalism was seen as something that needed to be harnessed, controlled or even caged. But in the cultural marketplace, the left had its own version of creative destruction.

But both sides kept these internal tensions in check. Now the equilibrium is breaking down before our eyes. Both left and right have their own versions of "cancel culture" now. Leading conservatives routinely heap scorn on "market fundamentalism," championing everything from protectionism and industrial planning to state meddling in social media platforms (despite the fact that the right dominates the very outlets they insist are "censoring" them). Prominent intellectuals flirt with authoritarianism, and even monarchy.

On the left, hostility to free speech and open debate is even more intense. In July, when a collection of mostly progressive intellectuals and writers issued an open letter calling for a renewed commitment to free speech, left-wing blowback was intense.

It's not just on issues of expression that the left's liberal consensus has come apart. Due process on college campuses is now scorned as reactionary. Religious liberty is tolerable, so long as it doesn't conflict with progressive values. It is rapidly becoming a mainstream position on the left to favor packing the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

Stenner argues that the authoritarian predisposition is triggered when the settled order becomes unsettled and an instinctive panic sets in. Whatever the cause(s) of these chaotic times may be (I have my theories), I think the chaos has triggered vast numbers of people on the left and the right to embrace illiberalism.

Both movements share an antipathy toward the bedrock American and classically liberal right to be wrong, to live differently, to care about unfashionable things, or simply to not care about fashionable ones. Dissent is a kind of assault that must be policed and silenced, by state or cultural power—or both. Conformity must be imposed. The twin fads of socialism and nationalism are best understood as competing attempts to impose sameness and order on each side's own terms.

In this climate, the new centrists can be ideologically conservative or progressive according to the old definitions, but east and west share a common discomfort with the constant demand to catastrophize our politics in order impose orthodoxy on everyone. And amid the cacophony, such centrism can be quite lonely.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Public health officials are our COVID commanders. Treat them with respect

By ANGELA HART
Kaiser Health News

Kaiser Health News is a national health policy news service. It is an editorially independent program of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

As a veteran who served back-to-back tours in Iraq, I initially cringed when commentators compared the COVID-19 crisis to wartime—no bullets, no blood and no one volunteered for this.

But after my months of reporting on the pandemic, it has become painfully clear this is like war. People are dying every day as a result of government decisions—and indecision—and the death toll is climbing with no end in sight.

Less than six months into the pandemic, COVID-19 has already killed at least 183,000 Americans, more than triple the number who died in the Vietnam War, and far more than the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

We are all being asked to make sacrifices for the good of our country. And we're experiencing, as a nation, a deeply traumatic event. Like war, the toll will be felt for a long time.

In California and elsewhere, local public health officials are leading the front lines in this battle against COVID-19, dictating strategy, issuing orders and developing tactics to carry out that strategy. Every day, they make gut-wrenching calls to protect our health and livelihoods, even if those decisions may inflict initial harm on the economy or contradict politicians and popular opinion.

But instead of being celebrated for their difficult and dangerous work, as I was, they are now facing violent threats and political attacks from those who disagree with their tactics—such as requiring masks in public and ordering businesses and parks closed to prevent the spread of infection.

When I interview them, often late at night, I hear in their voices that familiar mix of emotions that often come with war: exhaustion, anxiety and devotion to duty.

"We've become easy scapegoats for people's fear and anxiety during COVID-19," said Dr. Gail Newel, the health officer for Santa Cruz County, who continues to face threats for issuing public health orders.

The latest—a menacing email sent to her in late July calling her a "communist bitch"—prompted local law enforcement to recommend she get a guard dog and firearm to protect herself. "That weighs very heavily," she said.

I can't imagine the burden. Although many of us serving in Iraq disagreed with the war, we remained dedicated to our mission and enjoyed broad support at home.

I joined the military as a U.S. Army reservist in 1999 and was deployed on active duty to Iraq in early 2003, when it truly was like the Wild West.

Serving first as logistics clerk and then the acting supply sergeant for a military police company out of San Jose, California, I helped ensure my military brothers and sisters had proper equipment. When the George W. Bush administration sent us to Iraq, for example, it did so without armoring our Humvees—a major failure that elevated our risk of being blown up by roadside explosives.

I returned home in July 2004 and spent years putting the battlefield behind me as I transitioned to a career in journalism. But living through COVID-19 has resurrected those feelings of being at war.

Now, just like then, there is an overall sense of fear and uncertainty because we don't know when the crisis will end. We aren't free to go about our lives as we once did and we yearn for the comforts we took for granted. We miss our loved ones we can't see.

We must remain hypervigilant to potential threats, and even make sure to don our "armor" when we leave our homes, except now it's masks and gloves instead of helmets and flak jackets.

There's something that happens when you're in a conflict zone—the air feels heavier. You can feel threats all around you, just waiting to strike. There's deep anxiety for what the future holds, and you wonder whether you'll be alive next week or next month.

Public health officers are shouldering the added anxiety that duty brings. For much of the pandemic, California Gov. Gavin Newsom has pushed the responsibility—and blame—of reopening largely onto counties and the state's 61 local health officers, who have worked for months without days off, giving up time with their families to attack this crisis head-on.

I have interviewed dozens of them. Some have broken into tears while talking with me, and worry chokes their voices as they lament problems with testing or explain how they don't have enough supplies or contact tracers to safely reopen. They felt rushed into lifting stay-at-home restrictions in May and June, yet they had no choice in the face of pressure from politicians and suffering residents and businesses. After years of severe underfunding, public health agencies don't have the money or resources to deploy an adequate response.

They're also wrestling with the guilt and trauma that come with making decisions that affect people's lives and livelihoods.

"It has been hard on all of us," acknowledged Sacramento County's health officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye. "We're getting phone calls daily from people saying they're going bankrupt and they can't pay their rent and they have loved ones who are dying that they can't see."

I know how that feels, having been conflicted about our long-term strategy in the Middle East and the harm we inadvertently inflicted on innocent civilians. But I can't imagine being afraid of the people I signed up to protect.

Public health officials have become targets of aggressive and personal attacks. Some have seen their photos smeared with Hitler mustaches, while others have had their personal phone numbers and home addresses circulated publicly, prompting the need for round-the-clock security.

"Imagine treating American soldiers and military families with the kind of hatred and disrespect that local health officers are facing," said Dr. Charity Dean, unprompted, a day after she left her job as one of the top public health officials in the Newsom administration. "They're the ones taking all the risk, and it makes me angry to see how they've been treated."

Since the start of the pandemic, at least eight career public health officials in California have resigned, and more are considering it. But most are soldiering on.

Mimi Hall, Newel's boss and Santa Cruz County's top public health official, told me law enforcement is investigating a threatening letter addressed to her that was allegedly signed by a far-right anti-government extremist group.

In response, Hall considered retiring early. But she didn't want to abandon her troops and wasn't going to let fear stop her from doing her job. So she had a perimeter fence and home security system installed over the weekend—and reported for work promptly Monday morning.

Yes, we are waging a life-or-death battle in which innocent people are hurt, but it's these battle-scarred public health officers who are making deeply personal sacrifices to steer us to safety.

We commemorate military leaders with medals and parades. Why not treat our public health officials with the same level of appreciation?

Both sides must learn to tolerate dissent

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.the United States.

My nominee for Patriot of the Week is Lauren Victor, in acknowledgement of her public demonstration of that most American of characteristics, the perverse determination to do what she wants to do, even in the face of intimidation, threats, peer pressure and political correctness.

Victor is an urban planner and photographer in Washington, D.C., who has marched a number of times in support of Black Lives Matter. She wasn't marching on the day after Jacob Blake was shot in the back seven times by a Kenosha, Wis., police officer. Instead she went with a friend to dinner at a D.C. restaurant.

You've probably seen the video of the incident; it quickly went viral and has been viewed at least 12 million times.

As they dine at a sidewalk table, Victor and her friend are suddenly surrounded by a group—all white as far as I can see—that demands that she raise her fist in support of their cause, which appears to be BLM. Victor declines and is hectored and harangued by the increasingly animated mob; still she declines and eventually the crowd moves on.

Last week Victor wrote a thoughtful opinion piece for the Washington Post under the headline: "I was the woman surrounded by BLM protestors at a D.C. restaurant. Here's why I didn't raise my fist."

Victor explains that when the crowd approached her, their cause wasn't immediately apparent. When she asked them who they were and why they were marching, she got no answer. But, she admits, even if she had known who they were and their purpose, she would not have raised her fist.

She agrees with their goals but objects to their imperious demands, writing "...it is never okay to coerce people's participation; that is just bullying."

Victor ends on a hopeful and generous note. She confirms her support for BLM, as well as for an individual's right to decline to participate in a protest. And she gives her harassers credit for "working together to sustain a movement to uphold Black people's civil rights."

Several commentators—New York Times columnist Bret Stephens and comedian Bill Maher, for example—note that episodes like this are just the sort of thing that will ensure President Donald Trump's reelection.

Their point is well taken. Nobody wants to be scolded into conformity by a mob of overbearing, ultra-woke bullies. Still, we need to coin a word to describe the ironic double standard that we so often apply to the left and the right in such instances:

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is pilloried for failing to wear a mask on a trip to a beauty salon, while Trump rarely wears a mask and mocks those who do.

Trump can call our war dead "losers" and "suckers" and still get a pass from his supporters after taking a specious deferment to avoid military service during his own generation's war.

Trump is free to make snide innuendos about Joe Biden's problematic history of contact with females, as if the "Access Hollywood" tapes didn't exist.

And most germane to the Lauren Victor episode is the self-righteous indignation directed by the political right at the misguided mob that descended on her while she was trying to eat. The right, quite correctly, finds that sort of coercive intimidation offensive. But, at the same time, they accept Trump's heavy-handed efforts to suppress peaceful protests, as well as dignified and perfectly lawful displays of objections to the injustices of the status quo, such as kneeling during the national anthem.

Lauren Victor took the trouble to explain why she refused to be intimidated by a bullying crowd. But Americanism embodies the right to act as we choose, including resistance against coercive "patriotism," without having to explain, at all. Trump's blunt sense of patriotism lacks the subtlety to appreciate this; just ask Colin Kaepernick.

No imperious mob of woke liberals can compete with Trump's capacity to intimidate and coerce. I said we need to coin a word to express this double standard. Come to think of it, we probably already have one: Hypocrisy.

RETARGETING

From Page 8

dent has said, if we don't take tests, you won't know the number of people who are COVID-positive."

His assertion isn't entirely unfounded, but it ignores plausible reasons for the shift. The fact remains, there isn't enough testing in the country to keep up with the spread of the virus. Until there is, it is not unreasonable to prioritize testing for high-risk individuals.

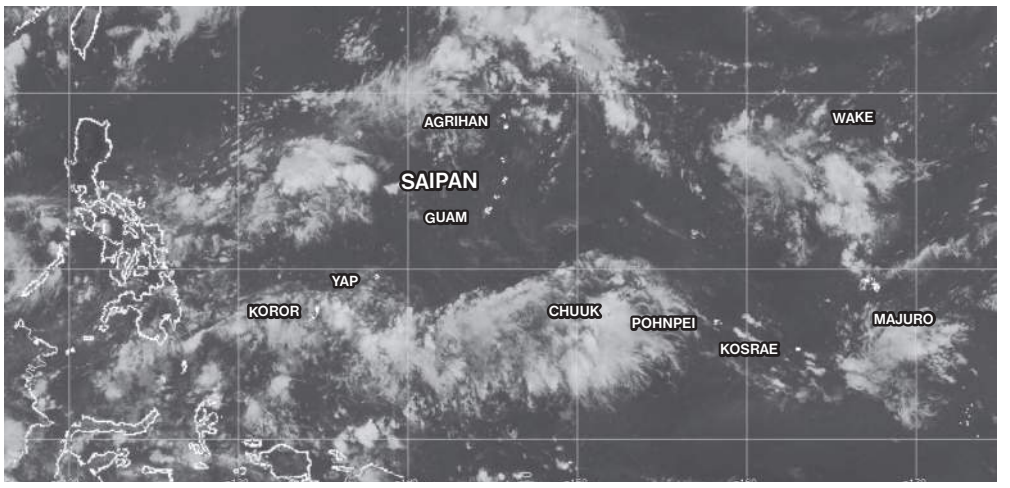
(c)2020 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms near Guam friday afternoon. East to northeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:17 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overnight ASCAT analysis and satellite imagery show a weak surface trough sits over the Marianas. Winds are light with spotty showers and a few thunderstorms. Buoys indicate a 3 foot NW swell from Typhoon Haishen is still hanging around.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:16 PM	11:49 PM
Friday	-	1:09 PM	6:28 AM
Saturday	12:39 AM	2:04 PM	-
Sunday	1:34 AM	2:58 PM	-
Monday	2:32 AM	3:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 76°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Rome	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°
Salem	Cloudy	83° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Tokyo	Cloudy	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:01 AM	LOW TIDE	0.36
2:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
7:26 PM	LOW TIDE	1.24
-	-	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

25% local discount awaits you at the HYATT

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrersaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Always at the forefront of providing uniqueness in extending hospitality and service to the community, Hyatt Regency Saipan offers 25% discount to locals when dining in at any of its popular restaurants and beach bar—Miyako, Kili & Terrace Café, and Skipper's Beach Bar. All it takes is to show a local identification card and a world of discounts and points for every dollar spent opens up to you.

"The program is called 'Dine-in Program' where you get 25% off on food and beverage. All you have to do is live here, show us an ID, and you don't even have to have a dine-in card as this special offer is identity driven and a location discount," said Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage director Ty Pauling

"If you are checked in at the Hyatt, discount goes up to 30%...the great thing about the 'Dine-in Program' at Hyatt is that it is the same as the Club at the Hyatt (discount membership program) in the sense both privileges allow guest to qualify for World of Hyatt points," Pauling added.

BEA CABRERA

Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage director Ty Pauling welcomes everyone in the community to dine in at the Hyatt and get 25% local discount at Miyako, Kili & Terrace Café, and Skipper's Beach Bar.

BEA CABRERA

The 25% local discount is part of Hyatt's 39th Anniversary celebration on Saipan last year and it was extended so that the community will enjoy great discounts until the end of the year.

World of Hyatt is a loyalty and a rewards program that every Hyatt International hotel subscribes to. One earns points at the World of Hyatt for stays, amount you've spent during the stay, the number of consecutive stays and on food and beverage spending. The good news is for every dollar spent, you earn 3 points.

For more information, call (670) 234-1234

"This is available for both Club at the Hyatt and Dine-in Program members. It is free to sign up to be a part of the World of Hyatt… This offer was supposed to end last Aug. 31 but our World of Hyatt team felt that guests were really enjoying this particularly in the Asia region like Hong Kong, Beijing, Japan, and Korea so they have extended that promotion until the end of the year," Pauling said.

"Our Club at the Hyatt Program still offers the strongest discount because at its heart, members can avail discounts as much as 50% and as little as 10% and other benefits like a one night stay. We currently have it but we may not be able to have a long life on the Club at the Hyatt given the pending lease negotiation so we cannot sell a 12-month membership for now so to better serve the community, our Dine-In program is an alternative to just welcome everybody whether you are a Hyatt cardholder or not…it is for everybody," Pauling said

Whether you are a part of the Club at Hyatt or Dine-In Program of Hyatt, a loyalty program is attached to it. "The reality is, you are earning points for future stays, give points to friends and family or you can use them to pay for food and beverage items in the restaurants," Pauling said.

"There are different categories, rules, and regulations but it is a free program to be a part of and I highly encourage everybody… we want to make sure that we can still offer something to those who want to enjoy a nice lunch or dinner out, who want to have an event, to do something with family and friends and still get a good deal because at the Hyatt, we have multiple layers of discounts," Pauling added.

According to Hyatt executive sous chef Zen Tomokane, now is the perfect time to start earning those points. "Since you cannot do much traveling abroad because of the pandemic, it is great to avail of the the discount programs at the Hyatt. When you spend money while on Saipan, you earn points for every dollar spent… it is like stocking up on points while you are home at a tropical island," he said.

"Build your points while here so when you get to travel you are going to be one of those people who has this great loyalty points that are attached to you and have the best experience traveling and while staying at any of the Hyatt partners around the world," he added.

Hyatt Regency Saipan is located at Royal Palm Avenue, Micro Beach Road, Garapan. For more information, call (670) 234-1234, look them up on FaceBook: Hyatt Regency Saipan, and on their website www.hyatt.com.

GOP proposes 'targeted' virus aid, but Dems say not enough

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate prepared to vote this week on a trimmed-down Republican coronavirus relief package, though it only has a slim chance of passage in the face of Democrats' insistence for more sweeping aid.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell released the approximately $500 billion measure on Tuesday as senators returned to Washington for an abbreviated pre-election session, but hopes were dimming for another coronavirus relief bill—or much else.

Republicans struggling to retain their Senate majority this fall have been divided, with some GOP senators in close races anxious to respond further to the pandemic, even as conservatives are tiring of all the spending and passing legislation in concert with liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

McConnell called the package "a targeted proposal that focuses on several of the most urgent aspects of this crisis, the issues where bipartisanship should be especially possible." They included school aid, new money for vaccines and testing, and a second round of the popular Paycheck Protection Program for smaller businesses.

Democrats demanded a far larger bill, including hundreds of billions of dollars for state and local governments, more generous jobless benefits, and help for renters and homeowners, along with other provisions in the House Democrats' $3.5 billion relief bill that passed in May.

"Get real, Mitch McConnell," Pelosi said during a Bloomberg interview. "It's only a 'check the box' so that some of his endangered Republican senators can go home and say, 'Well, see, I tried.' But it isn't trying. It is not even an attempt to do the right thing."

Republican senators such as Susan Collins of Maine are eager to show constituents they are continuing to work to ease the pandemic's disastrous impact on jobs, businesses and health. But many Senate Republicans are resisting more spending, and the scaled-back bill is roughly half the size of a measure McConnell unveiled earlier this summer.

McConnell's move Tuesday would clear the way for a Thursday test vote in which Democrats were sure to block the legislation. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement that the bill "doesn't come close to addressing the problems and is headed nowhere."

AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine study paused after one illness

(AP)—Late-stage studies of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine candidate are on temporary hold while the company investigates whether a recipient's "potentially unexplained" illness is a side effect of the shot.

In a statement issued Tuesday evening, the company said its "standard review process triggered a pause to vaccination to allow review of safety data."

AstraZeneca didn't reveal any information about the possible side effect except to call it "a potentially unexplained illness." The health news site STAT first reported the pause in testing, saying the possible side effect occurred in the United Kingdom.

An AstraZeneca spokesperson confirmed the pause in vaccinations covers studies in the U.S. and other countries. Late last month, AstraZeneca began recruiting 30,000 people in the U.S. for its largest study of the vaccine. It also is testing the vaccine, developed by Oxford University, in thousands of people in Britain, and in smaller studies in Brazil and South Africa.

Two other vaccines are in huge, final-stage tests in the United States, one made by Moderna Inc. and the other by Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. Those two vaccines work differently than AstraZeneca's, and the studies already have recruited about two-thirds of the needed volunteers.

Temporary holds of large medical studies aren't unusual, and investigating any serious or unexpected reaction is a mandatory part of safety testing. AstraZeneca pointed out that it's possible the problem could be a coincidence; illnesses of all sorts could arise in studies of thousands of people.

"We are working to expedite the review of the single event to minimize any potential impact on the trial timeline," the company statement said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,361.25	27,680.00	11,241.75
+25.25	+155.00	+181.25
+0.76%	+0.56%	+1.64%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.38	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	76.01
British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	73.49	Singapore Dollar	1.37
Canadian Dollar	1.32	Japanese Yen	106.01	South Korean Won	1187.42
Chinese Yuan	6.85	Malaysian Ringgit	4.17	Swiss Franc	0.92
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.51	Taiwan Dollar	29.27
		Philippine Peso	48.61	Thailand Baht	31.38

Nation

Firefighters overtaken by flames in California mountains

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. (AP)—More than a dozen California firefighters trying to protect a fire station in rugged mountains were overrun by flames Tuesday, and several were hurt. Elsewhere, military helicopters rescued more than 150 people stranded in a burning forest.

Fourteen firefighters deployed emergency shelters as flames overtook them and destroyed the Nacimiento Station in the Los Padres National Forest on the state's central coast, the U.S. Forest Service said. They suffered from burns and smoke inhalation, and three were flown to a hospital in Fresno, where one was in critical condition.

The injuries came as wind-driven flames of more than two dozen major fires chewed through bone-dry California and forced new evacuations after a scorching Labor Day weekend that saw a dramatic airlift of more than 200 people.

Pilots wearing night-vision goggles to find a place to land before dawn pulled another 164 people from the Sierra National Forest and were working to rescue 17 others Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

"It's where training meets the moment, but it always takes the courage, the conviction and the grit of real people doing real work," said Newsom, who called the fires historic.

California has already set a record with nearly 2.3 million acres (930,800 hectares) burned this year, and the worst part of the wildfire season is just beginning.

AP

Flames burn at a home leveled by the Creek Fire along Highway 168 on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, in Fresno County, Calif.

The previous acreage record was set just two years ago and included the deadliest wildfire in state history, which was started by power lines and swept through the community of Paradise, killing 85 people.

That 2018 blaze forced the state's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, to seek bankruptcy protection and guard against new disasters by cutting power preemptively when fire conditions are exceptionally dangerous.

The utility shut off power to 172,000 customers over the weekend and more outages were expected in Northern California as high and dry winds were expected until Wednesday.

More than 14,000 firefighters were battling fires around the state. Two of the three largest blazes in state history are burning in the San Francisco Bay Area, though they are largely contained after burning three weeks.

California was not alone: Hurricane-force winds and high temperatures kicked up wildfires across parts of the Pacific Northwest over the holiday weekend, burning hundreds of thousands of acres and mostly destroying the small town of Malden in eastern Washington.

In Southern California, fires burned in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, and the forecast called for the arrival of the region's notorious Santa Ana winds. The U.S. Forest Service on Monday decided to close all eight national forests in the southern half of the state and shutter campgrounds statewide.

In the Sierra National Forest east of Fresno, dozens of campers and hikers were stranded at the Vermilion Valley Resort after the only road in—a narrow route snaking along a steep cliff—was closed Sunday because of the Creek Fire.

Well before dawn Tuesday, the sound of helicopter blades chopping through the air awoke Katelyn Mueller, bringing relief after two anxious nights camping in the smoke.

"It was probably the one time you're excited to hear a helicopter," Mueller said. "You could almost feel a sigh of relief seeing it come in."

She and others had to abandon their vehicles and were flown to Fresno, where a friend picked her and three friends up for the drive back to San Diego.

The fire had roared through the forest exceptionally quickly, advancing 15 miles (24 kilometers) in a single day over the holiday weekend. It has burned 212 square miles (549 square kilometers) since starting Friday from an unknown origin. Forty-five homes and 20 other structures were confirmed destroyed so far.

Cressman's General Store, a gas station and popular stop for more than a century near Shaver Lake, was a total loss. Flames threatened the foothill community of Auberry between the lake and Fresno.

The use of military helicopters to rescue a large number of civilians for a second day—after 214 people were lifted to safety after flames trapped them in a wooded camping area near Mammoth Pool Reservoir on Saturday—is rare, if not unprecedented.

Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College who has written extensively about wildfires, said he's only seen rescues of this size during floods, when people need to be plucked from narrow canyons.

7 killings investigated at illegal pot grower in California

AGUANGA, Calif. (AP)—Detectives on Tuesday investigated what prompted the Labor Day killings of seven people at an illegal marijuana growing operation in a small, rural Southern California community known for horse ranches and plant nurseries along dirt roads.

The fatal shootings in Aguanga, north of San Diego, represent the latest flashpoint in the violence that often permeates California's illegal marijuana market.

The state broadly legalized recreational marijuana sales in January 2018 but the illicit market is thriving—in part because hefty legal marijuana taxes send consumers looking for better deals in the illegal economy.

Before dawn Monday, Riverside County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon at an Aguanga home. They found a woman suffering from gunshot wounds who later died at a hospital, according to a sheriff's department statement.

The deputies discovered six more dead people at the house that "was being used to manufacture and harvest an illicit marijuana operation," the statement said.

Investigators seized more than 1,000 pounds (454 kilograms) of marijuana and several hundred marijuana plants.

While officials said they did not immediately find any suspects, the sheriff's statement called the deaths "an isolated incident" that did not threaten people in Aguanga, population about 2,000.

"The area is safe and we don't have any other concerns," sheriff's Sgt. Deanna Pecoraro said.

Partially eaten pizza sat in boxes in a circular dirt driveway of the dilapidated two-bedroom house where the shootings occurred. Three cars were parked outside—one with its front doors open.

Cases of bottled water were stacked on the front porch, which was strewn with clothing and plastic bags. A black tarp was stretched atop poles in the fenced backyard, indicating a small growing operation. Unlike many neighboring homes, it had neither a gate nor a "no trespassing" sign at the entrance.

The sheriff's department declined to give additional details, but officials planned an afternoon news conference.

Reached by phone, property owner Ronald McKay expressed surprise, saying he didn't know a shooting had taken place at either of the rentals, a mobile home and the house.

He said he had tried to visit Monday to check on the well during the recent heat wave but was turned away by a deputy who wouldn't tell him what was going on. He said he left his phone number, but authorities never called.

McKay said he didn't know the tenants or their names—the rentals are handled by someone who works with him. But he said the home had been rented for three years and the mobile home for two without incident.

"I'm kind of unaware of anything right now," McKay said. "For two and three years, they've been there—perfect. Never had an issue."

Aguanga, with its post office, general store and real estate brokerage, is in the Temecula Valley, dotted with vineyards and horse ranches that have given it some traction as a weekend getaway for Southern California residents. It's near Temecula, a bedroom community for San Diego and Los Angeles.

DOJ asks to defend Trump in rape accuser's defamation suit

NEW YORK (AP)—The Justice Department is asking to take over President Donald Trump's defense in a defamation lawsuit from a writer who accused him of rape, and federal lawyers asked a court Tuesday to allow a move that could put the American people on the hook for any money she might be awarded.

After New York state courts turned down Trump's request to delay E. Jean Carroll's suit, Justice Department lawyers filed court papers aiming to shift the case into federal court and to substitute the U.S. for Trump as the defendant. That means the federal government, rather than Trump himself, might have to pay damages if any are awarded.

The move to intervene is in keeping with a Justice Department that time and again has advanced a broad vision of executive power and has moved to shield Trump from legal exposure, most notably by arguing that actions taken to choke off the Russia investigation fell within the scope of his constitutional authorities and were therefore permissible.

It also comes amid concerns that Attorney General William Barr has gone out of his way to intervene in other legal cases involving Trump or his allies. Barr tried to decrease the amount of prison time his office sought for Trump ally Roger Stone following a criminal trial where he was found guilty. (Stone's sentence was later commuted by Trump.) Barr's Justice Department has acted to dismiss its own case against former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Carroll's lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, called the department's argument "shocking."

"It offends me as a lawyer and offends me even more as a citizen," she said in a statement.

Carroll said the developments illustrated "that Trump will do everything possible, including using the full powers of the federal government," to try to stop the case.

And in a tweet addressed to Trump, Carroll wrote: "Sir, I and my attorney Robbie Kaplan, are ready! So is every woman who has ever been silenced! So is every American citizen who has been trampled by Bill Barr and the DOJ! BRING IT!"

The filing complicates, at least for the moment, Carroll's efforts to get a DNA sample from the president as potential evidence and to have him answer questions under oath.

Asia

India adds another 89K cases, to reopen schools

NEW DELHI (AP)—India added another 89,706 coronavirus cases to the second-highest tally in the world, and the government said schools would reopen later this month for senior students after more than five months closed.

India's famed white marble Taj Mahal in the northern city of Agra will also reopen Sept. 21 with access restricted to 5,000 tourists daily to prevent overcrowding.

According to the Health Ministry, India's total caseload on Wednesday reached 4.37 million. The ministry also reported 1,115 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 73,890. India has the second-most cases in the world and the third-most deaths behind the United States and Brazil.

More than 1 million people have tested positive for the coronavirus in India in less than two weeks. Testing has been ramped up to more than 1 million daily, with cumulative testing exceeding 50 million.

In the Indian capital, authorities said COVID-19 testing centers can take walk-ins without a doctor's prescription. This follows a rise in the daily tally of coronavirus cases to 2,411 from less than 1,000 last month.

The Health Ministry on Tuesday announced partial reopening of schools from Sept. 21 for students of 9-12th grades for taking teachers' guidance. Online learning will still be permitted.

Schools were shut after India imposed a strict nationwide lockdown on March 25. The government started easing it in May to revive economic activity.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ The number of new coronavirus infections in South Korea has stayed below 200 for the 7th straight day. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday the 156 cases added in the past 24 hours took the country's tally to 21,588 with 344 deaths. The agency said 100 of the new cases were locally transmitted patients in the Seoul area, which has been at the center of a viral resurgence since early August. Authorities in the Seoul area have ordered the shutdown of churches, night establishments and after-school academics and curbed late restaurant services to try to curb new infections.

Myanmar army deserters confirm atrocities against Rohingya

BANGKOK (AP)—Two soldiers who deserted from Myanmar's army have testified on video that they were instructed by commanding officers to "shoot all that you see and that you hear" in villages where minority Rohingya Muslims lived, a human rights group said Tuesday.

The comments appear to be the first public confession by soldiers of involvement in army-directed massacres, rape and other crimes against Rohingya in the Buddhist-majority country, and the group Fortify Rights suggested they could provide important evidence for an ongoing investigation by the International Criminal Court.

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh since August 2017 to escape what Myanmar's military called a clearance campaign following an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group in Rakhine state. Myanmar's government has denied accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

Fortify Rights, which focuses on Myanmar, said the two army privates fled the country last month and are believed to be in the custody of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands, which is examining the violence against the Rohingya.

According to Fortify Rights, privates Myo Win Tun, 33, and Zaw Naing Tun, 30, who served in separate light infantry battalions, gave "the names and ranks of 19 direct perpetrators from the Myanmar army, including themselves, as well as six senior commanders ... they claim ordered or contributed to atrocity crimes against Rohingya."

The videos were filmed in July while the soldiers were in the custody of the Arakan Army, an ethnic guerrilla group in Rakhine engaged in an armed conflict with the government, and included subtitled translations into English, the human rights group said. They were posted on Fortify Rights' page on a video-sharing site, where the Associated Press viewed them.

The AP was not able to independently corroborate the soldiers' accounts or ascertain whether they made their statements under duress.

However, U.N. agencies and human rights organizations have extensively documented atrocities carried out against the Rohingya by Myanmar security forces. The International Court of Justice agreed last year to consider a case alleging that Myanmar committed genocide against the group. The court's proceedings are likely to continue for years.

Myanmar has long considered Rohingya Muslims to have migrated illegally from Bangladesh, even though their families have lived in Myanmar for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

In separate videos, the two soldiers were shown seated stiffly in military uniforms with a sheet covering the background, as an off-screen male voice asked them questions. The details in the questions, as well as the ready answers about events that occurred about three years earlier, made it evident the content was prepared, if not actually rehearsed. However, the violent acts the men described echoed the vast number of accounts of atrocities collected by U.N. investigators and independent human rights workers from Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

After answering questions about his name, serial number and military units, Myo Win Tun said the commander of the 15th Military Operations Center, whom he named as Col. Than Htike, gave an order to "shoot all you see and all you hear" when raiding Muslim villages. He said in one operation, they killed and buried 30 people: "eight women, seven children and 15 men and elderly."

He asserted that Col Than Htike ordered his unit to "exterminate all Kalar"—a derogatory name for the Rohingya—and that they shot the men in their foreheads and kicked their bodies into a hole. They also raped the women before killing them and he admitted to carrying out one rape.

World

UN rights office seeks probe of alleged Navalny poisoning

GENEVA (AP)—The office of the U.N. human rights chief is calling on the Russian government to carry out or cooperate with an independent investigation of the reported poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, welcomed the emergence of Navalny from a coma in a Berlin hospital, said office spokesman Rupert Colville.

"There was a very serious crime committed on Russian soil," he told reporters in Geneva. "There appears to to be no doubt this exotic and highly deadly substance —Novichok—was used, and clearly there must be a proper investigation.'

"Who does it, how they do it, as long as it's independent, impartial and thorough, and preferably quick, it's less important in a sense to say who does it," he added. "In theory at least, it's incumbent on the Russian authorities to investigate a crime of this severity that took place on their own territory."

AP

In this July 20, 2019, file photo, Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny gestures while speaking to a crowd during a political protest in Moscow, Russia.

Navalny, a fierce, high-profile critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany last month after falling ill on Aug. 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. German chemical weapons experts say tests show the 44-year-old was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting the German government last week to demand that Russia investigate the case.

Bachelet, in a statement, decried a "profoundly disturbing" number of cases of poisoning or targeted assassination in Russia over the past two decades, and noted that Navalny had been harassed, arrested and assaulted repeatedly in the past.

"Navalny was clearly someone who needed state protection ... even if he was a political thorn in the side of the government," Bachelet said. "It is not good enough to simply deny he was poisoned, and deny the need for a thorough, independent, impartial and transparent investigation into this assassination attempt."

Italy's premier urges Lebanon to form Cabinet, start reforms

BEIRUT (AP)—Italy's prime minister said Tuesday his country will support Lebanon's economic and social growth, expressing hopes that a new government is formed quickly—one that would start the reconstruction process in the wake of last month's Beirut explosion and implement badly needed reforms.

Giuseppe Conte is the latest senior foreign official to visit Lebanon after the Aug. 4 blast in Beirut's port that killed 192 people, wounded more than 6,000 and caused wide destruction and damages, estimated in billions of dollars.

Italy, one of Lebanon's largest trade partners, sent aid in the immediate aftermath of the explosion. It is still not known what ignited nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored at Beirut's port for six years. Italy also sent a field hospital that Conte described as "very advanced," and a team of military engineers that are working at the port.

Conte made his comments after meeting Lebanese President Michel Aoun. He then visited other officials, including Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and outgoing Prime Minister Hassan Diab.

"Lebanon can rely on Italy and Italy's role in the European Union and the international community," he said.

The international community has warned it would not provide financial assistance to Lebanon unless it implements reforms to fight widespread corruption and mismanagement that have brought the tiny nation to the brink of bankruptcy. Lebanon has been passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in decades, made worse by coronavirus and the port blast.

In late August, Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib, a dual Lebanese-French citizen, gained majority support from parliament members to form a new Cabinet. The outgoing Cabinet resigned six days after the explosion.

Adib promised to carry out the mission as he prepared to form a new Cabinet, saying he will work on reaching a bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund. Lebanon has one of the highest debt ratios in the world at 170% of GDP and defaulted on paying back its debt for the first time in March.

During a visit to Beirut last week, French President Emmanuel Macron said Lebanese politicians have committed to a road map that begins with a government of experts to be formed in two weeks and to quickly enact reforms.

Many Lebanese have lost faith in the political class that has been running the country for decades, blaming it for the corruption that has reached unprecedented levels in recent years.

"Time has come to look forward and build confidence between citizens and institutions and open a new page of Lebanon's history," Conte said.

Also on Tuesday, a small fire broke out at Beirut's port in an open area where rubble and debris from the blast were being piled. State-run National News Agency said the fire was quickly extinguished.

Environment

Gulf Fritillary: Passion for butterflies

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Have you been noticing the many orange butterflies fluttering around the island these past few weeks?

Whether you are out to swim at Obyan Beach, jogging around the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, taking trash down at the Marpi landfill, or perhaps, simply relaxing in your own yard, chances are you've seen them—they are called Gulf Fritillary butterflies.

According to Division of Fish and Wildlife entomologist Lee Roy Sablan, Jr., the Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) is native to the southern states of the U.S., and are found as far south as Central America.

They are a recent arrival to the Mariana Islands, with a recorded first sighting only in Nov. 6, 2018 in Guam, and that it is not clear yet if the butterfly will displace other species or if it will become an invasive specie.

It is important to note, however, that the Gulf Fritillary was mentioned in a 1997 study, *Butterflies of Micronesia* by the Agricultural Experiment Station-College of Agriculture and Life Sciences by the University of Guam.

IVA MAURIN/LEE ROY SABLAN JR
Life stages of the Gulf Fritillary butterfly taken here on Saipan.

It noted of the butterfly in Palau, but that the only record is a photograph taken in the Palau Entomology Collection where the "underside" was not photographed, so its identification could not really be confirmed.

"Here in the Mariana Islands they feed on bush passion fruit which in itself is an invasive vine. This could prove to be beneficial as a biocontrol agent, but it is too early to tell. Unless we have passion fruit farmers on island, they may not be considered agricultural pests."

Also known as the passion butterfly because they love passionflowers, the Gulf Fritillary are medium-sized, and their wingspan is up to 95 millimeters long. The wings are bright orange with black markings, its sides brown, with prominent three white spots lined with black on each wing. They have silver spots on the underside.

Sablan clarifies, however, that the butterfly is sexually dimorphic, which means the male and the female have different physical traits. The male is a much brighter orange while the female is more brownish orange. He also said that in many states, the butterflies are normally migratory but that here on the islands, these traits may not be present.

The adult butterflies also tend to prefer open areas such as grasslands, parks, woodlands, and meadows.

"They will breed year round as long as host plants are available, mostly plants from the *Family Passifloraceae.* Passifloraceae includes passion fruit vines which we have two invasive species on island, *Passiflora foetida* and *Passiflora suberosa*."

"For now, there is no need for alarm unless you plan on growing passion fruits, in which case there are some organic and conventional treatments available. Enjoy the butterflies while they last," he added.

So, if you have not seen one yet, and you are interested in seeing one, or many Gulf Fritillary, all you need to do is follow the road where the passion grows. Enjoy nature!

TanHoldings launches employee anti-littering campaign

Last Aug. 30, the employees across the various TanHoldings affiliates kicked off the TanHoldings Anti-Littering Campaign, which will run from Aug. 30 to Nov. 6.

This pilot campaign has been introduced and shared with all TanHoldings executives and leadership teams toward its goal to create a litter-free and cleaner CNMI. Our mission is to assist not just our local government and private establishments but to inspire each employee and their families that a litter-free and cleaner Saipan begins with us. It is our hope that our efforts will improve the health of our environment by keeping trash from being littered and to continue to educate all employee volunteers on anti-littering practices.

Understanding that our efforts are only a small portion of the overall footprint that will lead us to our goal, we will continue on with our efforts to be Earth ambassadors and keep our Marianas clean and beautiful. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Let's Go Tour Company Accounting and Administration manager Ladyvir Canape, left, and friends show off the trash they collected at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director Das Krishnan shows off the trash he collected,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings vice president Corporate Affairs and Human Resources Catherine Attao picks up trash at San Antonio Beach in Chalan Piao as part of the TanHoldings Anti-Littering Campaign.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
L&T Group of Companies HR assistant Mia Carreon and a friend show off the trash they collected behind McDonald's Garapan.

Life & Style

Appeals court agrees R&B singer R. Kelly should stay jailed

NEW YORK (AP)—R. Kelly can remain behind bars awaiting multiple trials on child pornography and other charges in three states, an appeals court in New York said Tuesday as a lawyer for the R&B singer cited another inmate's attack on Kelly last month as one reason he should receive bail.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan upheld a decision by a Brooklyn federal judge to deny bail to Kelly, 53, who remains in a federal jail in Chicago.

He faces state and federal charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York ranging from sexual assault to heading a racketeering scheme designed to supply him with girls.

The Grammy Award-winning singer has denied ever abusing anyone.

R. Kelly

Prosecutors have said Kelly is a danger to the community and a flight risk. The 2nd Circuit said prosecutors had proven both and that "no condition or combination of conditions could assure against those risks." The appeals court said the lower court also did not err in finding Kelly failed to demonstrate a "compelling reason" for temporary release.

Mike Leonard, one of Kelly's attorneys, said the appeals ruling was "very disappointing and somewhat surprising" because appeals judges during oral arguments had seemed to understand that Kelly's incarceration was preventing him from preparing adequately for trial.

In a court filing in Chicago federal court Friday, Leonard wrote that Kelly sustained unspecified injuries when he was attacked at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago in late August by another inmate.

The lawyer also entered into the court file for Kelly's case a handwritten letter from the inmate who says he attacked Kelly immediately after meeting with a mental health professional who screamed for him to return to their discussion as the inmate instead refused and attacked Kelly.

Leonard alleged that the incident proved that the federal jail cannot protect his client behind bars and that he should be granted bail. A bail application is pending in Chicago, though the 2nd Circuit ruling would keep him behind bars even if he won bail in Illinois.

A message for comment was left with the federal Bureau of Prisons.Thomas Farinella, another lawyer for Kelly, said that for Kelly, "The so-called maxim of the presumption of innocence appears to be a misnomer."

DeGeneres vows candor as clouded talk show charts its return

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres says she'll be ready to talk when her daytime show returns this month after a staff shake-up prompted by allegations of a toxic workplace.

"I can't wait to get back to work and back to our studio. And, yes, we're gonna talk about it," DeGeneres said in a statement announcing the show's Sept. 21 start of its 18th season.

DeGeneres

Tiffany Haddish will join DeGeneres for the kick-off episode, with "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" to be taped at Warner Bros. minus an in-studio audience, which is commonplace during the pandemic.

The first month's list of high-profile guests reads like a a rebuttal to questions about how DeGeneres and her show are perceived in the industry amid the controversy that cut against the host's kindly image.

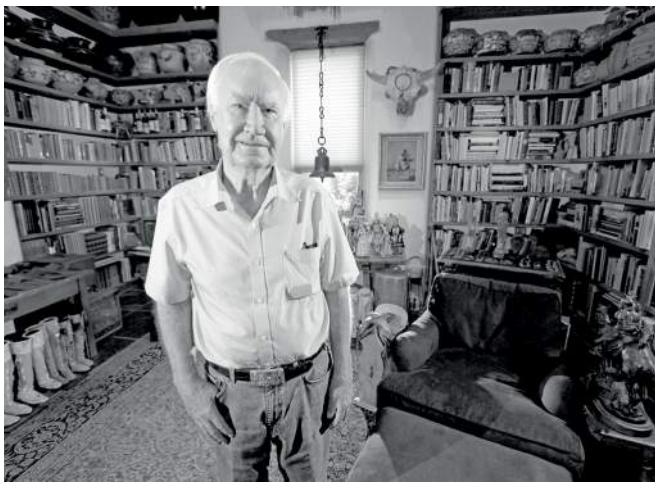
Kerry Washington, Alec Baldwin and Chrissy Teigen are set for the first week, with Chris Rock, Amy Schumer, Adam Sandler and Orlando Bloom appearing later in September, the show said.

Stephen "tWitch" Boss, a longtime guest DJ on the show and among those who have publicly supported DeGeneres, will guest host some fall episodes.

Art dealer whose treasure sent hunters scouring US West dies

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Antiquities dealer and author Forrest Fenn, who gained fame after hiding a treasure chest filled with gold, jewels and other valuables that drove hundreds of thousands of people to search remote corners of the U.S. West for the riches—sometimes with tragic consequences—has died. He was 90.

Police confirmed Fenn died Monday of natural causes at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Police spokesman Greg Gurule said Tuesday that officers were alerted that afternoon and that more information would be released as it becomes available.


AP

In this July 4, 2014 file photo, Forrest Fenn poses at his Santa Fe, N.M., home.

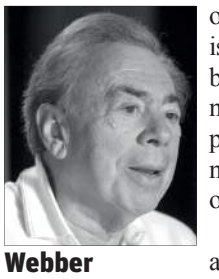
It was only in recent months that Fenn announced his treasure had supposedly been found in Wyoming by someone he didn't name. Fenn said he hid the loot 10 years ago in the Rocky Mountains and dropped clues to its whereabouts in a poem published in his 2010 autobiography.

Fenn had said he packed and repacked his bronze treasure chest for more than a decade, sprinkling in gold dust and adding hundreds of rare gold coins and gold nuggets. Pre-Columbian animal figures went in, along with prehistoric "mirrors" of hammered gold, ancient Chinese faces carved from jade and antique jewelry with rubies and emeralds.

He had always said he hid the treasure as a way to tempt people to get into the wilderness and give them a chance to launch an old-fashioned adventure and expedition for riches.

Andrew Lloyd Webber warns arts are 'at point of no return'

LONDON (AP)—"The Phantom of the Opera" composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has told British lawmakers that the arts are "at the point of no return," and urged the government to set a date for theaters to be allowed to reopen.


Webber

Lloyd Webber spoke about the struggles of staging socially distanced shows and making them profitable, noting that very few shows "hit the jackpot" like "Hamilton," "Lion King" or "Phantom."

"We simply have to get our arts sector back open and running ... We are at the point of no return, really," he told Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee by video. "There comes a point when we really can't go on anymore. Theatre is an incredibly labour-intensive business. In many ways, putting on a show now is almost a labor of love."

He added that theater shows are "not like cinema, you can't just open the building."

In July, Lloyd Webber's company staged a pilot concert featuring soul singer Beverley Knight at the London Palladium to test coronavirus-era safety measures like separating clusters of seats and mandatory mask wearing. The theater boss hoped that the trial performance could show how theaters can open at full capacity safely.

Asked about whether he has a message for the British government, Lloyd Webber said: "Give us a date" to reopen.

Man who threatened suicide demands his guns be returned

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been friends with another couple for more than 50 years. The four of us have shared lots of good times together.

After recent open heart surgery, the husband became very depressed and talked to his wife about "ending it all." She asked me to take the few handguns (all legal) they had in their home to be safe. I didn't feel I could say no. I'm not interested in guns, but it seemed a simple request. So she "snuck" them out to me during our last visit.

When the husband discovered what his wife had done, she told him about my role in it. He now demands I return his guns and says he no longer wants anything to do with me. His wife wants me to hold onto them for now.

What should I do?

TORN OVER THIS

DEAR TORN: From what I have been told, depression after heart surgery is not unusual. Hang onto the guns and urge the wife to report her husband's threat to harm himself to his doctors and let them guide her. She should also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is 800-273-8255. Someone who has talked about suicide should not have easy access to the means to do it.

DEAR ABBY: Since this coronavirus pandemic started, I have seen lots of articles stressing the importance of staying connected to elderly family members, friends and those living alone. My husband and I have each other, so we are sheltering in place. Although we have eight grandkids who all live within 50 miles, we haven't heard a word from any of them, whether via phone, email or text, all of which we do. How bad is that?

DISCONNECTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DISCONNECTED: If you have reached out to your grandchildren and been ignored, shame on them. If you haven't, it's time you did. Sometimes young people become so engrossed in their daily lives they forget about anything else. But that's what PARENTS are for, to "remind" them that reaching out to someone who needs a kind word (or an errand run during a pandemic) can be rewarding not only for the receiver but also for the giver. Parents should remind them to take five minutes occasionally to text Grandma.

DEAR ABBY: I started and completed a college fund for my two daughters. Only one of them used it. The other joined the military and used the GI Bill for college instead of the money from the college fund ($10,000). Am I obligated to give her that money? I did pull it out of the fund and have it in a certificate. I figure when she buys a house, I'll give it to her then.

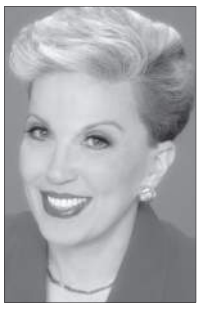
WONDERING IN FLORIDA

DEAR WONDERING: Check with the bank to make sure there won't be a problem if the college fund money isn't used for your daughter's education. If you can apply it elsewhere in a way that will benefit her—and part of a down payment on a house would definitely qualify—I think it would be wonderful. But check first.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

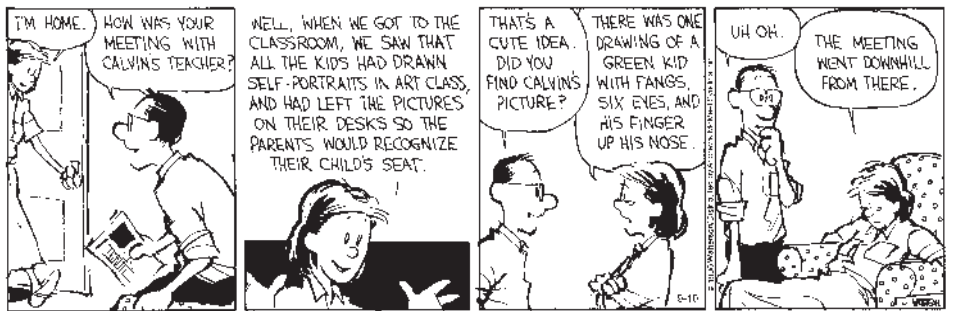


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME. HOW WAS YOUR MEETING WITH CALVIN'S TEACHER?
WELL, WHEN WE GOT TO THE CLASSROOM, WE SAW THAT ALL THE KIDS HAD DRAWN SELF-PORTRAITS IN ART CLASS, AND HAD LEFT THE PICTURES ON THEIR DESKS SO THE PARENTS WOULD RECOGNIZE THEIR CHILD'S SEAT.
THAT'S A CUTE IDEA. DID YOU FIND CALVIN'S PICTURE?
THERE WAS ONE DRAWING OF A GREEN KID WITH FANGS, SIX EYES, AND HIS FINGER UP HIS NOSE.
UH OH.
THE MEETING WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

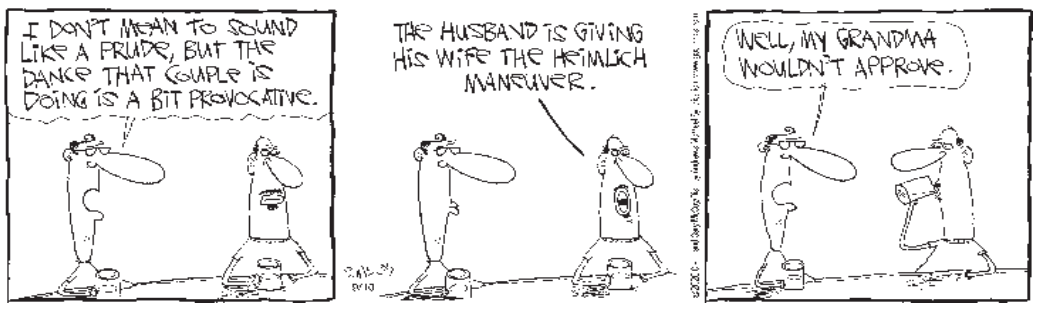
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

STOP CALLING ME CARLTON. I KNOW YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME.
SERIOUSLY, CARLTON. HAVE YOU HIT YOUR HEAD RECENTLY?
CLAYTON! LOOK! IT'S ON THE SIGN ON MY DOOR!
HOP
ALRIGHT. OKAY. YOU GUYS ARE GOOD.
CARLTONS ROOM keep OUT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND LIKE A PRUDE, BUT THE DANCE THAT COUPLE IS DOING IS A BIT PROVOCATIVE.
THE HUSBAND IS GIVING HIS WIFE THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER.
WELL, MY GRANDMA WOULDN'T APPROVE.

CROSSWORD

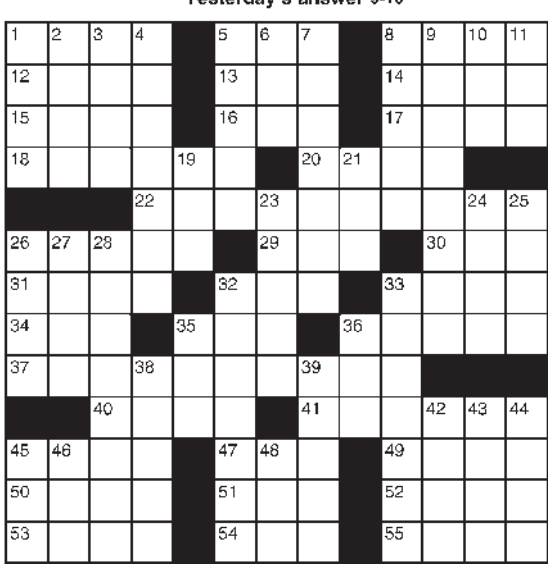
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Dragnet" star Jack
5 Greek letter
8 Taj Mahal site
12 Director Kazan
13 Scoot
14 Entryway
15 Tactic
16 Online chats, briefly
17 Hawk-eyes' home
18 Electric cars
20 Three- — sloth
22 Ineffective executives
26 Purse part
29 World Cup cheer
30 Cato's 502
31 "Dream on!"
32 Deli bread
33 Canine cry
34 Trail the pack
35 Old Olds
36 Elite Navy group
37 Garments for dashing athletes?
40 Grand
41 Capital of New South Wales
45 Borodin's "Prince —"
47 AWOL pursuers
49 Aachen article
50 Writer Morrison
51 Outback bird
52 Novelist Seton
53 Kimono ties
54 Away from NNW
55 Caboose

DOWN
1 Sobbed
2 "Legally Blonde" role
3 Life stories
4 Stew flavorer
5 Like fresh apples
6 Drone
7 Chic
8 Farewell
9 "I like that!"
10 Tier
11 Notre Dame's Parseghian
19 Rock concert booster
21 Sugary suffix
23 "Would I lie —?"
24 Cash drawer
25 Tries the wine
26 Pretzel topper
27 Despot
28 Tubular pasta
32 Job seekers' histories
33 Spouse's peacekeeping reply
35 "King Kong" studio
36 Pigs' digs
38 Tennis great Evert
39 Edition
42 Supreme Court count
43 New Age singer
44 Calendar span
45 Jurist Lance
46 Sailor
48 Evening hrs.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kamil McFadden, 24; Ryan Phillippe, 46; Amy Irving, 67; Joe Perry, 70.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change, see what life has to offer and be curious and ready to try something new. Refuse to let anyone tempt you or push you somewhere you don't want to go. Walk in a direction that offers what will make you happy and satisfied with your life. Your numbers are 4, 18, 24, 28, 30, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your energy into something you feel is worthwhile. Nurture a personal relationship, and it will encourage you to make better decisions regarding your future. An unexpected change will help you adjust your lifestyle. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will make you uneasy. Until details are in place, keep your thoughts to yourself in order to avoid a situation that makes you appear difficult. Bide your time, and you'll get what you want in the end. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put your energy into activities geared toward something you want to pursue. A chance to discuss your plans with someone special will lead to positive input and the decision to share your adventure. Love and romance look promising. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You may not like change, but it may be in your best interest. Don't disregard an opportunity due to fear. Embrace the future with a positive attitude, and you will discover that life has more to offer than you imagined. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Curb any anxiety or tendency to get into an argument. Do something physical that will help you expel pent-up energy. Focus on love, romance and personal growth. Take care of issues that will encourage you to look and do your best. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Expect to face an emotional conflict if honesty is an issue. Be frank about the way you feel, what you want and what you expect in return. How you handle others will make a difference in the outcome of a situation you face. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen carefully. Confusion and uncertainty will be the direct results of someone's misrepresentation. Problems at home will surface if someone is indulgent or tries to push you in a direction you don't want to go. Be open about the way you feel. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Hang on to your cash. Steer clear of joint ventures. Make decisions that lead to more stability, downtime and creative endeavors that ease stress and stimulate your mind. Life is about living; set goals that please you. Don't take physical risks. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get involved in something that requires fitness, energy and enthusiasm. Challenging yourself will help you get rid of anxiety. Rid yourself of people and situations that are unstable and cause uncertainty. Make romance, peace and love priorities. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay more attention to your investments, contracts and health. Make the necessary changes that will provide you with a productive and healthy lifestyle. Verify the information you receive before you pass it along or make a decision based on what you hear. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spend more time on self-improvement and less time trying to change others. Choose to work alone until you are sure you have everything in place. Sharing or presenting what you have to offer prematurely will lead to interference. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A sensitive personal matter will require diplomacy. Consider the changes you can make to keep the peace and make everyone, including yourself, happy. The help you offer and the suggestions you make will lead to a better home environment. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, imaginative and opportunistic. You are proactive and impulsive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1			8			
	1		2	4		7	6	
3	5							
							3	9
	3						2	
9	7							
							1	4
	6	7		8	9		5	
		2			5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	9	7	4	1	5	3	8	2
2	5	3	6	8	9	4	7	1
1	4	8	3	2	7	6	5	9
3	2	6	7	5	4	9	1	8
4	8	5	9	6	1	7	2	3
9	7	1	8	3	2	5	6	4
8	3	9	2	7	6	1	4	5
5	6	2	1	4	3	8	9	7
7	1	4	5	9	8	2	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A FORCE MAJEURE EVENT Solution: 8 letters

C	N	V	A	D	E	Z	I	L	I	B	O	M	M	I
L	O	O	C	S	W	A	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	N
A	O	L	O	S	S	T	R	I	K	E	S	T	T	T
U	H	C	E	C	N	E	G	I	L	G	E	N	N	E
S	P	A	N	D	E	M	I	C	M	R	O	E	G	R
E	Y	N	L	E	N	I	A	R	P	G	V	N	O	N
S	T	O	R	F	F	S	O	R	N	E	I	B	T	A
N	A	N	E	E	E	T	E	I	L	L	A	E	D	T
O	C	W	B	A	S	T	N	O	L	L	S	S	E	I
I	C	O	Y	T	A	T	C	I	C	P	E	A	D	O
T	I	D	C	T	H	K	R	Ⓔ	U	S	R	E	O	N
C	D	W	I	G	O	D	G	I	Ⓡ	O	A	S	O	A
N	E	O	I	U	E	M	I	R	C	Ⓘ	L	I	L	L
A	N	L	T	O	D	A	N	R	O	T	Ⓕ	D	F	D
S	T	S	S	E	L	D	R	A	G	E	R	U	I	N

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Accident, Case, Clauses, Crime, Cyber, Defeat, Disease, Drilling, Event, Fiasco, Fire, Flares, Flooded, Half, Immobilized, International, Interpretations, Labor, Laws, Lightning, Lockouts, Loss, Natural, Negligence, Pandemic, Rain, Regardless, Restrict, Ruin, Sanctions, Slowdown, Storm, Strikes, Tornado, Typhoon, Upset, Volcano

Yesterday's Answer: It Feels Good

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Heat oust Bucks to reach East finals

AP
Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) goes up for a shot against Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez (11) in the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)— Jimmy Butler and the Miami Heat are headed to the Eastern Conference finals.

Giannis Antetokounmpo could only watch.

The fifth-seeded Heat finished off an upset of the NBA's best regular-season team Tuesday, topping the Milwaukee Bucks 103-94 in Game 5 of their East semifinal series -- while Antetokounmpo, the league's reigning MVP, couldn't play because of a sprained right ankle.

"We have deep, deep respect for that franchise and it's unfortunate that Giannis couldn't play tonight," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Butler and Goran Dragic each scored 17 points for the Heat, who won the series 4-1 and will face either Boston or Toronto when the NBA's final four gets underway next week. It's Miami's first time in the East finals since 2014, and the first time Butler has gotten this deep in the playoffs.

"It means a lot," Butler said. "But that's not my goal. That's not my guys' goal. That's not the organization's goal. We want to win `it.' We want a championship and I think that's what we're focused on. These next eight are going to be much harder than the previous eight. We know that. But we're ready for them."

Jae Crowder scored 16, Tyler Herro scored 14, Bam Adebayo had 13 and Kelly Olynyk had 12 for the Heat.

Khris Middleton had 23 points for Milwaukee, which got 15 points and 14 rebounds from Brook Lopez. Donte DiVincenzo scored 17, Wesley Matthews and Marvin Williams each had 11 and Eric Bledsoe had nine assists for the Bucks.

The decision to not let Antetokounmpo play came down about 45 minutes before game time.

"I wanted to play," Antetokounmpo said. "You know I wanted to play. I know I wanted to play. My coach knows I wanted to play, but at the end of the day, the organization put my health over Game 5. That's big."

Antetokounmpo did what he could—cheering from the bench throughout, rebounding for teammates during pregame warmups and again at halftime, offering words during time-outs.

And the Bucks were inspired from the jump.

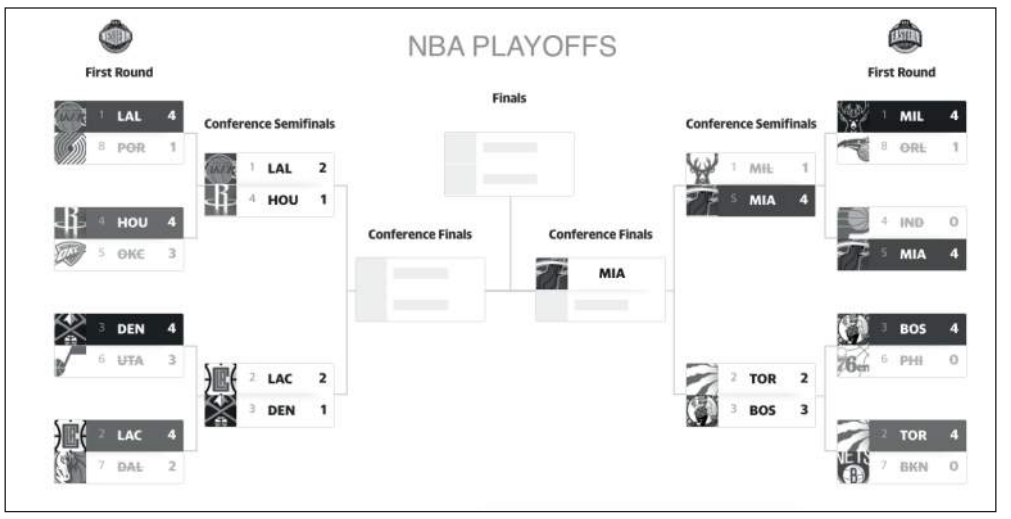
But the NBA's No. 1 overall seed in these playoffs—a league-best 56-17 in the regular season—just didn't have enough. A very memorable ride ended, after a season where Milwaukee likely had a back-to-back MVP, the best record in the game and led a player boycott earlier in these playoffs to reiterate the primary mission of this restarted season, that being using the NBA platform to highlight a need to end racial injustice.

Milwaukee opened the game on a 28-15 run, putting Miami on its heels from the opening minutes. DiVincenzo got the call to start for Antetokounmpo and scored eight of Milwaukee's first 16 points, Matthews had nine by the end of the quarter and the Bucks were off to a promising start.

Miami answered that start with a 30-9 run of its own, capped by three free throws from Olynyk with 4:36 left in the half for a 45-37 Heat lead.

Milwaukee wouldn't let the Heat get away, though—not then, and not in the third when Miami pushed the lead out to 12 after a 3-pointer by Crowder with 3:07 left. The Bucks needed just 50 seconds to rip off seven straight points, and it stayed close from there.

In the end, Miami just had a bit more. They became the lowest-seeded team to make the East finals since eighth-seeded New York in 1999.



Lakers 112, Rockets 102

LeBron James scored 36 points, Rajon Rondo sparked a fourth-quarter rally and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Houston Rockets 112- to take a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

James earned his NBA-record 162nd playoff victory, surpassing former Lakers guard Derek Fisher's 161.

Rondo had 21 points and nine assists as the Lakers broke open a close game in the final period. He scored eight straight points during a 10-0 run early in the fourth quarter that put the Lakers ahead for good. Rondo assisted on the other basket during that stretch.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and Kyle Kuzma added 14. James Harden scored 33 points and Russell Westbrook had 30 for the Rockets.

Rockets forward Robert Covington was taken to the locker room after colliding with Davis in the fourth quarter. The left side of Covington's face hit Davis' right arm, while Covington's left elbow hit Davis' right side.

Rondo assisted on a layup by James that put the Lakers ahead with about 10 minutes remaining. Rondo then hit a 3-pointer to give the Lakers an 89-85 advantage, their largest lead to that point.

After a Houston timeout, Westbrook missed a shot and Rondo sank another 3. Rondo then stole the ball from Harden and made a layup to cap the 10-0 run.

Giannis staying put

Milwaukee Bucks superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is slated to be a free agent after the 2020-21 season, could hold the league hostage this offseason if he were to decide a new destination is in order.

"It's not happening. That's not happening," Antetokounmpo said after the Bucks were eliminated in five games in the second round by the Miami Heat.

"Some see a wall and go in [another direction]. I plow through it. We just have to get better as a team, individually and get right back at it next season."

Antetokounmpo, 25, is eligible for a super-max extension this offseason that is expected to be worth around $254 million over five years.

It's the second straight season the Bucks have entered the postseason with the NBA's best record but failed to advance to the NBA Finals.

Ronaldo hits milestone with 101 goals

SWEDEN (AP)— Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice against 10-man Sweden on Tuesday to take him to 101 international goals for Portugal on Tuesday.

The mythical 100-mark was broken on the stroke of half-time of a UEFA Nations League match against Sweden.

The 35-year-old Juventus attacker curled in a free-kick from 25 yards over the wall and into the far left corner beyond Sweden's stranded goalkeeper Robin Olsen for a memorable milestone in his trophy-laden career.

The bonus second goal, and his 101st, came in the 72nd minute, the former Manchester United and Real Madrid player cutting back inside the Swedish defence and producing a deft finish into the far corner from 20 yards.

After making his first senior international appearance as an 18-year-old in 2003, Ronaldo notched up his first goal for Portugal in a 2-1 defeat by eventual winners Greece at Euro 2004.

Ronaldo, capped 165 times by Portugal, is second only to Iran's Ali Daei, on 109, in the list of top men's international goal scorers.

North American 2022 World Cup qualifier delayed

The start of World Cup qualifying for lower-ranked teams in North and Central America and the Caribbean was postponed Tuesday until next year, which means there aren't enough remaining dates in the current FIFA calendar to complete the program.

FIFA and regional soccer body CONCACAF said qualifiers that had been scheduled for October and November had to be pushed back because of travel and quarantine rules during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Many parts of the region continue to have very challenging public health situations, and that has been a key factor in this decision," the two governing bodies said in a joint statement.

Thirty lower-ranked nations were due to play four qualifiers each this year but those games should now start in March 2021. Only three of those teams will advance to join the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Honduras in a final eight-team group, from which three teams will qualify directly for the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

However, it was unclear how FIFA and CONCACAF will reschedule games. The final eight-team group had been scheduled to start in June, but those dates could now be needed to complete the six-team playoffs among the lower-ranked nations. If so, the big teams like the U.S. and Mexico may not play their first qualifying games until September 2021.

"These are extraordinary times, and we all need to continue to adjust," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "We have established a strong foundation in our group and we will deal with whatever comes our way. We look forward to receiving the updated schedule so we can plan accordingly."

Padres get 7th slam, blow past Rockies

SAN DIEGO (AP)—"Slam Diego" is back, and Mike Clevinger was the beneficiary en route to his first win with the Padres.

Wil Myers homered twice, including San Diego's seventh grand slam of the season, Austin Nola hit a three-run shot and Clevinger was impressive in his home debut for the Padres, who routed the Colorado Rockies 14-5 Tuesday night.

Clevinger gave up a three-run home run to Nolan Arenado just four batters into the game, but the Padres got it all back, and more, in the bottom of the inning.

Clevinger even wore a "Slam Diego" headband during his postgame Zoom call with the media.

"That was probably the biggest part of my whole entire night, was after I leaked that pitch there to Arenado and he put it in the seats, and to look around and see not any shred of doubt on any face," Clevinger said. "Nobody was down besides me because I made a bad pitch. Everybody was so stoked to go hit once we got back in, they were like, `OK, let's go bang up.' Before the game I even said, `We're going to score two touchdowns tonight,' just joking around and we did."

The Padres once again showed their remarkable ability to bounce back from a deficit.

"We've just got a different group of guys. It's a bunch of dogs that is waiting to eat at all times," Clevinger said.

AP

San Diego Padres' Wil Myers watches his grand slam during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, in San Diego.

Rangers 7, Angels 1

Lance Lynn pitched seven strong innings, Elvis Andrus homered and the Texas Rangers snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Lynn (5-2), the first major league pitcher to make 10 starts this season, struck out six, walked two and limited the Angels to one run on four hits.

Athletics 4, Astros 2

Khris Davis homered and hit an RBI double against previously unbeaten Zack Greinke, and Oakland sent Houston to its sixth straight loss in the first game of a doubleheader.

Robbie Grossman hit a go-ahead double in the sixth and Ramon Laureano added an RBI single for Oakland.

Blue Jays 2, Yankees 1

Gary Sanchez and the slumping New York Yankees lost their fifth in a row and fell for the 15th time in 20 games, again failing to get clutch hits in a loss to Toronto.

At 21-21, the Yankees are at .500 or worse in September for the first time since 1995.

Twins 7, Cardinals 3, Game 1
Cardinals 6, Twins 4, Game 2

Matt Wieters hit 14 foul balls during a 19-pitch at-bat that finished with a flyout during a wild rally that sent St. Louis over Minnesota for a doubleheader split.

Josh Donaldson, Nelson Cruz and Miguel Sano all homered, leading the Twins to a victory over the Cardinals in the first game.

Phillies 6, Red Sox 5, Game 1
Red Sox 5, Phillies 2, Game 2

Bobby Dalbec homered for his fourth straight game, his two-run shot in the sixth inning enough to help Boston beat Philadelphia and split a doubleheader.

Alec Bohm hit a two-out, two-run single in the seventh inning to rally the Phillies in the opener.

Royals 8, Indians 6

Maikel Franco drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and had an RBI single in the ninth as Kansas City beat Cleveland to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer and Cam Gallagher had an RBI double for Kansas City.

Nationals 5, Rays 3

Juan Soto drove in a run in his return to the lineup and Washington used strong relief pitching to beat Tampa Bay and sweep the two-game series.

After missing five games with left elbow soreness, Juan Soto was back in the lineup as the designated hitter. He drove in a run in his first at-bat with a groundout to third in the first.

Tigers 8, Brewers 3

Spencer Turnbull allowed three hits in six scoreless innings, and Detroit broke the game open with five runs in the fifth on their way to a victory over Milwaukee, the Brewers' third straight.

Turnbull (4-2) struck out three and walked three for the Tigers. Jeimer Candelario homered and drove in four runs.

Marlins 8, Braves 0

Sixto Sanchez combined with four relievers on a four-hitter and Jorge Alfaro hit one of three homers for Miami in a victory over Atlanta.

Garrett Cooper had two hits, including a two-run homer, and drove in three runs. Alfaro drove in two runs with two hits, including his first homer

Orioles 11, Mets 2

Rookie Ryan Mountcastle hit a two-run homer, Rio Ruiz added a three-run shot as Baltimore hit four homers and cruised past the Mets.

The Orioles won their fourth straight and improved to 20-21, moving within a half-game of the slumping Yankees for the second wild-card spot.

Pirates 5, White Sox 4

Pinch-runner Jason Martin scored the winning run on catcher Yasmani Grandal's error in the bottom of the ninth inning as Pittsburgh rallied against the White Sox.

With the score tied at 4-4, the Pirates loaded the bases with none out as Gregory Polanco and Josh Bell singled and Ke'Bryan Hayes walked.

Cubs 3, Reds 0

Alec Mills pitched six sharp innings, David Bote drove in two runs and the Cubs beat Cincinnati.

Mills (4-3) permitted four hits, struck out six and walked three in his first win since Aug. 24.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	28	15	.651	0.0
Toronto	24	18	.571	3.5
NY Yankees	21	21	.500	6.5
Baltimore	20	21	.488	7.0
Boston	15	29	.341	13.5
Central				
Chi White Sox	26	16	.619	0.0
Cleveland	26	16	.619	0.0
Minnesota	27	18	.600	0.5
Detroit	19	21	.475	6.0
Kansas City	15	28	.349	11.5
West				
Oakland	25	15	.625	0.0
Houston	22	21	.512	4.5
Seattle	19	23	.452	7.0
LA Angels	17	26	.395	9.5
Texas	14	27	.341	11.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	24	18	.571	0.0
Philadelphia	21	18	.538	1.5
Miami	19	18	.514	2.5
NY Mets	19	24	.442	5.5
Washington	16	25	.390	7.5
Central				
Chi Cubs	25	18	.581	0.0
St. Louis	18	17	.514	3.0
Milwaukee	18	22	.450	5.5
Cincinnati	18	24	.429	6.5
Pittsburgh	14	26	.350	9.5
West				
LA Dodgers	30	12	.714	0.0
San Diego	27	17	.614	4.0
San Francisco	22	21	.512	8.5
Colorado	20	22	.476	10.0
Arizona	15	27	.357	15.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zverev overcomes 12 double-faults; Osaka into SF

NEW YORK (AP)—The disqualification of Novak Djokovic from the U.S. Open, and the absences of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, presented quite an opportunity to Alexander Zverev and the other men left in the tournament—all in their 20s, all seeking a first Grand Slam title.

Who would falter? Who would rise to the occasion? Done in by double-faults and bothered by an officiating decision, Zverev stumbled at the start of Tuesday's quarterfinal against Borna Coric. Then, suddenly, Zverev soared.

Down a set and a break early, then so close to trailing by two sets to one, Zverev grabbed 14 of 15 points in a pivotal stretch on the way to earning his first semifinal berth at Flushing Meadows with a 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 6-3 victory over Coric.

Next for the 23-year-old from Germany will be the winner of Tuesday night's quarterfinal between No. 12 Denis Shapovalov of Canada and No. 20 Pablo Carreño Busta of Spain.

It was Carreño Busta who was the beneficiary when Djokovic was defaulted from their fourth-round match for hitting a ball that accidentally hit a line judge in the throat after a game.

The men's quarterfinals Wednesday: Dominic Thiem vs. Alex de Minaur, and Daniil Medvedev vs. Andrey Rublev.

In women's action Tuesday, two-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka set up a semifinal against 28th-seeded Jennifer Brady, a 25-year-old from Pennsylvania who's never been this far at a major tournament.

Osaka, the former No. 1-ranked played who won the U.S. Open two years ago, played far cleaner tennis than her opponent in a 6-3, 6-4 win over 93rd-ranked Shelby Rogers at night.

Rogers finished with 27 unforced errors, Osaka with eight.

Earlier, Brady defeated No. 23 seed Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-2.

"I came out with nerves. I think she did, too," Brady said. "I just tried to pretend it was a first-round match."

It's been quite a surge for Brady, whose big serve and forehand have carried her to an 11-1 record since tennis returned from its pandemic hiatus.

Her ranking was low enough at the start of 2020 that she needed to go through qualifying to get into a tournament's main draw.

"There were a lot of doubts, a lot of questions. Definitely not positive thoughts during those times," said Brady, who helped UCLA win an NCAA title. "But I think I'm pretty lucky to have just stuck to it and just really continue to just play and practice and compete and get better. Here I am today."

Wednesday's women's quarterfinals are Serena Williams vs. Tsvetana Pironkova, and Victoria Azarenka vs. Elise Mertens.

Zverev has been considered an up-and-coming talent to watch for a few years now but had never quite put it together at Grand Slam tournament until this year.

Chiefs, Texans fine-tuning for NFL opener

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Perhaps never before has the final full practice before an NFL game been more important than this season.

With the coronavirus pandemic wiping out the offseason and eliminating all four preseason games, the Chiefs and Texans found themselves going through a final workout Tuesday with plenty of things to iron out—from the basics such as pregame stretch and warm-ups to the last-minute tweaks to formations, play calls and the game plan.

After all, the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs and the Texans, whom they beat in the divisional round of the playoffs, know that all eyes will be on them as they kick off the season with a Thursday night showdown at Arrowhead Stadium.

"Listen, the first game is always that way," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "because you're never quite sure what they're going to do. You don't know what we're going to do. Even with preseason games, the first few games are up in the air. You don't know what's going to be presented. But that's the way it works every year."

Fair enough. But not every year does a global pandemic fundamentally alter the way the world operates. That includes the professional football, where COVID-19 testing, face masks and handwashing have become integral parts of the daily routine.

"I'm curious to see how the teams play," Reid admitted. "I think it's going to be a well-played game, but I'll be curious."

Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo also acknowledged a bit more trepidation than usual. Part of it is that, even though the Texans have played the Chiefs plenty in recent years, there has been significant turnover among their offensive personnel—DeAndre Hopkins is out, for example, and fellow wide receivers Brandin Cooks and Randall Cobb are in.

"You can get a little bit off of the preseason games. You get a little bit of feel for how the opponents are going to interact with each other," Spagnuolo said. "If we would have had our four normal preseason games then we would've seen 25 to 30 snaps of their first group. We kind of missed that so it's a little bit of a guessing game. Again, that's going to be part of the chess match going on during the game. The team that makes the adjustments best will have the best chance of winning."

The Chiefs have tried to replicate preseason games in workouts, taking advantage of the extra bodies in training camp -- they didn't have to pare down from 80 until this past Saturday—and on the practice squad. But the speed of practice never quite matches that of a preseason game, and the speed of a preseason game never quite matches a regular-season one.

"The first game really is like this all the time," Spagnuolo said. "It's really more about us and how we function than it is about trying to get tips on what they may do. We're going to kind of focus on that."

AP

In this July 27, 2019 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws during an NFL football training camp in St. Joseph, Mo.

The biggest area of concern for both Reid and Spagnuolo: tackling.

Teams are always wary of the injury risk that comes with tackling in practice. So even during the handful of padded workouts they are allotted in camp, they often prohibit taking players all the way to the ground. But without preseason games to work on such fundamentals, the Chiefs had to tweak the way they approached tackling.

"Tackling at this level is tough on its own. A lot of these guys can make multiple people miss," Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu said. "I think if you have the ability to play fast, play to your leverage, and use your teammates, I think all tackles aren't necessarily meant for you to make. Sometimes it's for you to use your help, two guys can bring down one guy. As long as we can play fast and play to our leverage and use our teammates, I'm hoping we'll be fine."

Yes, there sure seems to be a lot of hope as Week 1 approaches.

One thing the Chiefs do have going for them is stability within their roster. They brought back most of their own free agents, and along with returning veterans, they have served as helpful ad-hoc coaches to the rookies and newcomers. That has been a boon not only in helping them absorb the playbook but also acclimate to the locker room culture.

"We're in game week now and everybody is ready to go," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "You can feel the intensity. You can feel that mentality. I think everyone's at the point now where we're just ready to play football again."

Broncos star Miller injured

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press the Denver Broncos fear star linebacker Von Miller suffered a season-ending ankle injury toward the end of practice Tuesday.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't addressed Miller's injury, said the team was awaiting results of an MRI on Miller.

The practice took place indoors because of a snowstorm that struck the Rocky Mountains after a series of upper-90s and 100-degree days.

SHANE

From Page 20

gave me the best days of my life! There's nothing like hopping on a bike and feeling the wind on your body as you ride around the course," he added.

Alvarez sees himself in the kids who started showing up in Marpi every weekend to get the hang of the sport, all gear up and ready to take on the challenges ahead of them. He added that he understands the parent's concern about the safety of the sport, but assured them that their children are in good hands.

"As long as you are fully geared and protected with a safe course like what we have, your kid will have the time of his life even if he falls a few times. There are a good number of kids who just started and after a couple of Sunday sessions they are looking like little pros. It's not hard to learn especially if you are dressed for it," the Garapan resident said.

Alvarez anticipates more people will come forward and support or join motocross as the Marianas Racing Association is working on securing a permanent home for the sport—the CowTown Raceway further down Marpi.

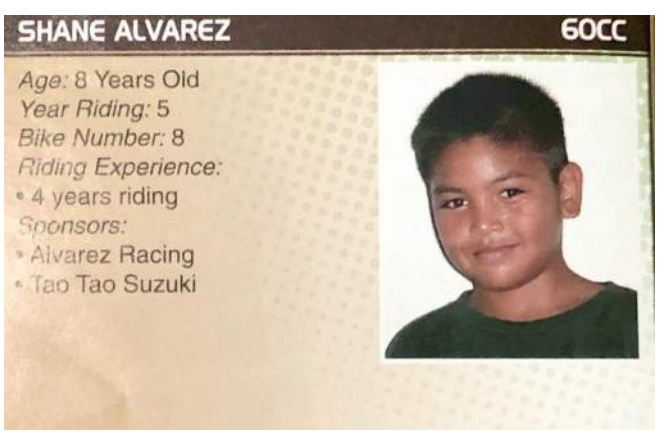
"I can't wait 'til we can get CowTown back so we can build a real track and start hosting races for the fans to enjoy. We are on a mission to make it the biggest and most fun sport in the CNMI."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane Alvarez, right, joins his fellow riders for a group photo after their race last month in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab from a Marianas Racing Association promotional video shows riders navigating the challenging course.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, the young Shane Alvarez is included on the souvenir program of a motocross race in 2002.

Heat oust Bucks to reach East finals

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Padres get 7th slam, blow past Rockies

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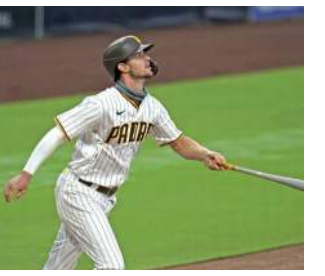


Shane goes back to first love

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shane Alvarez makes a turn during one of the exhibition races in Marpi last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With local MMA action suspended indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez is thankful that motocross is making a comeback in the CNMI.

Alvarez is among the more than 20 riders joining the regular practice races in Marpi (the area where the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool is located) every Sunday and gets the workout he needs to stay in shape.

"Sadly, MMA in the islands has to come to a halt for now because of course it is a contact sport. I sure do miss it and our amazing fans who love MMA but until all is back to normal we will have to hold off," said Alvarez, who last fought in the octagon cage in April 2018 during the Rites of Passage 23 and started training last year to prepare for an upcoming fight only to stop working on his MMA skills when the pandemic hit the islands in March.

"But, thankfully motocross is back. I am extremely happy motocross has been revived, as it is my first love and it will always have my heart. It is also a great workout and has tons and tons of fun! You always want to ride in your capacity and skill level but if you want to ride hard and be safe at the same time, you have to be in shape so it forces me to stay healthy and train," the Trench Tech fighter said.

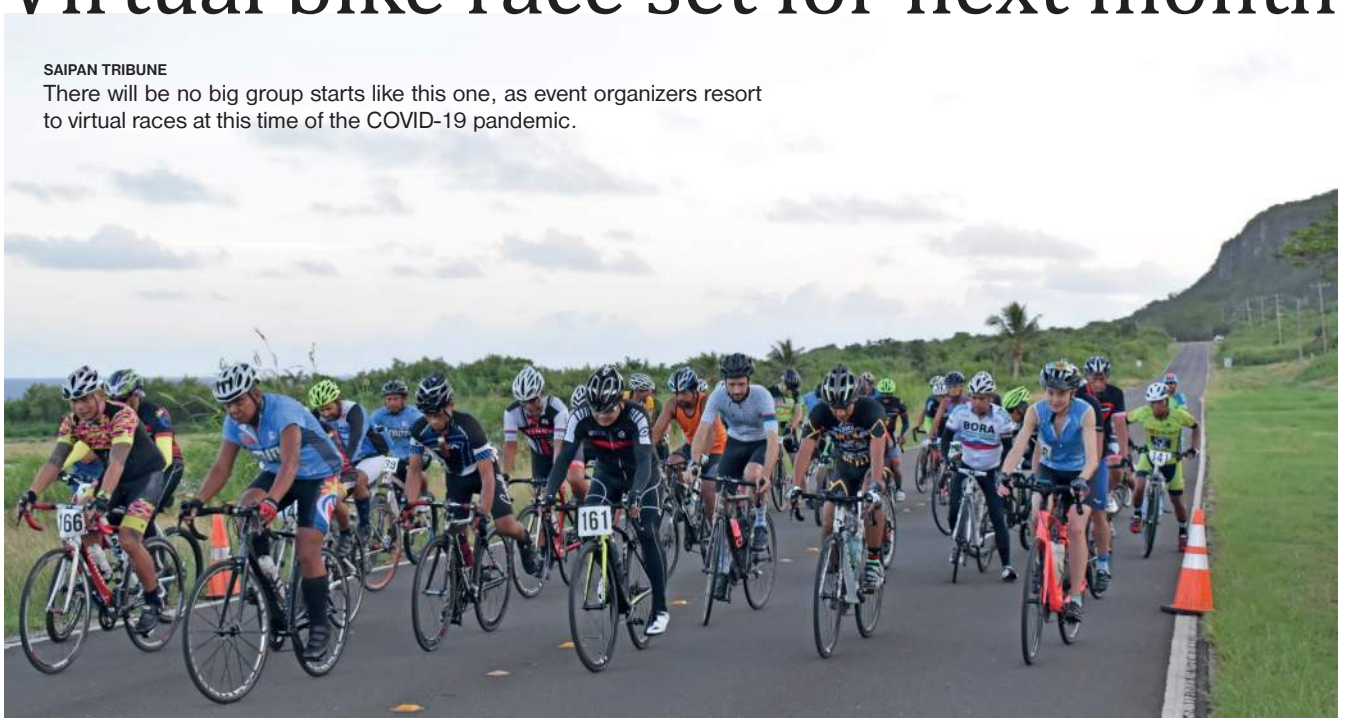
Alvarez fell in love with motocross at a young age, thanks to the influence of his father, Cuki, and grandfather, Ray Sr. He recalled how the sounds of the bikes revving was (and still is up to this day) like music to his ears and how he always imagined himself flying high and managing every obstacle along the race course.

"I first started at 4 years old with training wheels and had my first race at 5 without them. I remember my first race vividly. We had to just go around the jumps, but I remember thinking to myself one day I will be able to jump that big jump!" the 27-year-old said.

"Doing motocross as a kid

See SHANE on Page 19

Virtual bike race set for next month



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
There will be no big group starts like this one, as event organizers resort to virtual races at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With virtual races now the new norm at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saipan Unity Lions Club will follow the lead as it holds its 4th Annual Mountain and Road Bike Ride on Oct. 10 and 11.

Eva Cuevas, SLUC's Marketing and Communications chair, said that bikers will be on their own when they join next month's race and will have to use the STRAVA app to record their times and determine the event's winners. Race course, divisions, registration fees, and other details of the competition will be announced later, as SULC is still coordinating with the bikers' group to finalize the mechanics of the tournament.

The SULC 4th Annual Mountain and Road Bike Ride is a fundraiser with the organizing group using the proceeds from the event to fund its various community projects and services.

"Majority of the funds that will be raised from this bike race event will be used for our Feed The Hungry campaign, as it is the kind of support that our community needs at these extremely tough times. Portion of the funds to be collected in this event will also be used for other projects and services provided by our club in the CNMI as the needs arise," Cuevas said.

Next month's event will be the second virtual competition for CNMI bikers, as they just completed the Guam-hosted Go The Distance Challenge after joining the 100-mile race.